

Australian Orchid Review

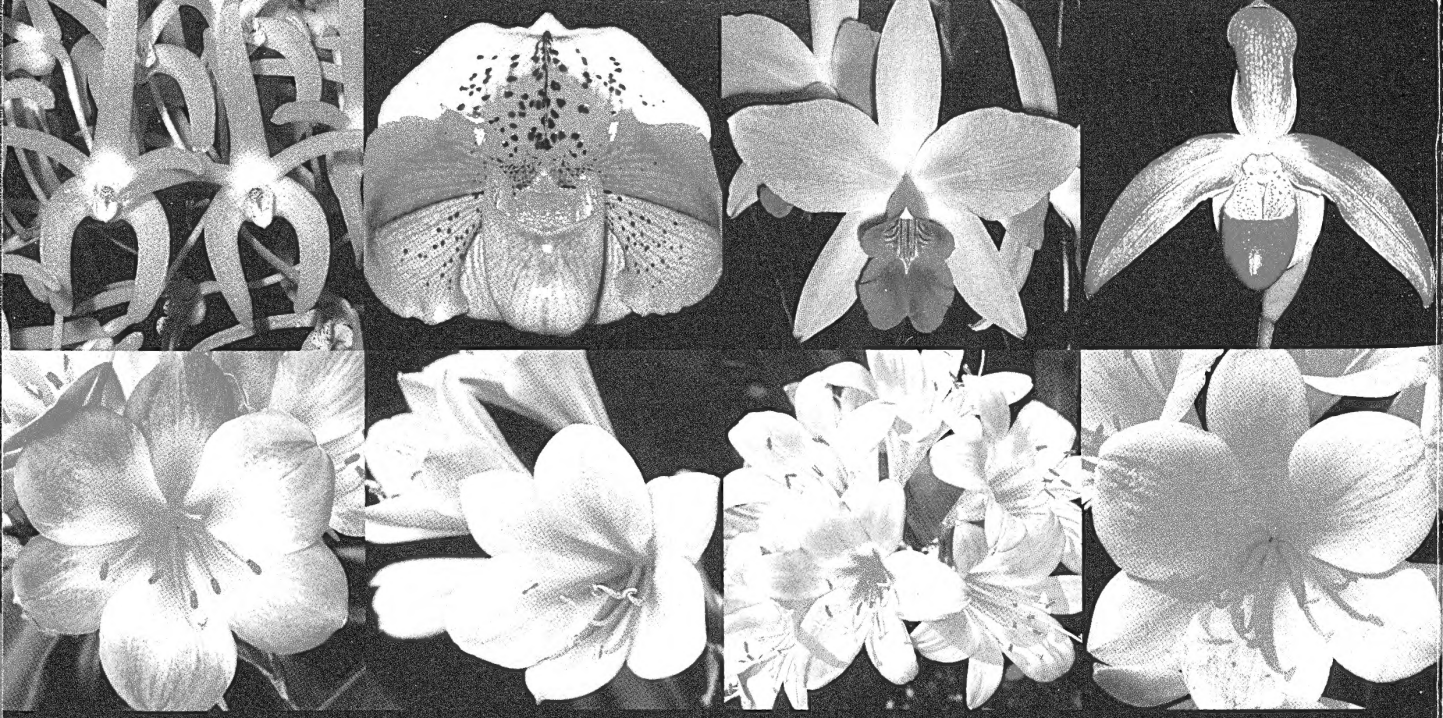
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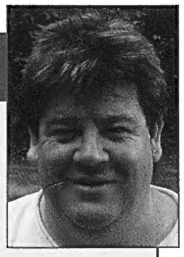
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From the Editor's Desk



The "moth orchid" – *Phalaenopsis*, are the world's most popular orchidaceous pot-plant. Their wonderful and distinctive blooms are one of the most important flowers used in bridal bouquets and other floral displays. In this issue, well respected author, photographer and lecturer Gary Yong Gee discusses the white-flowered species that are often misinterpreted and incorrectly named in cultivation. This is essential reading for growers and breeders of these orchids, as well as student and experienced orchid judges. Many of these plants are simply lumped (and sometimes awarded) under the name of *Phalaenopsis amabilis*. Once you know what to look for these various species are easy to identify, especially by studying distinctive and constant features within the labellum. This article should sort out this confusion, by reading Gary's notes, along with his excellent macro photography.

Dr. Graham Mackay has written this time on Peloric *Phalaenopsis* Hybrids. He and his wife Glenda own GiGi Orchids, which specialise in the very latest and highest quality moth orchids, primarily from Taiwan. These peloric flowers are certainly different, but do appear to have a growing following. Many orchid enthusiasts actively seek out these unique and unusual cultivars, as some of these have most striking patterning.

Jean Shergold of Easy Orchids gives us a report on the Borneo Orchid Society (Sabah) Show from 2010. There were many eye-catching and rarely-seen orchids on display, with many showcased in this article. Easy Orchids (in conjunction with Casino Travel Shoppe) will be conducting a range of tours to the World Orchid Conference in Singapore in November 2011. See the full page advertisement on page 50 for more details.

Wayne Turville from the Australian Orchid Nursery in Victoria joins us as an author with his "Culture Corner". In this issue Wayne poses the question... "Do you have an old orchid under a gum tree?" There are some great down to earth cultivation tips within this gem, and we look forward to this becoming a regular feature.

On the *Cymbidium* front, Gordon Giles discusses his early growing years with cymbids and part of his philosophy for breeding them. As always, Gordon's notes make compulsory reading, coming from one of Australia's most successful nurserymen and plant breeders.

Back in 1908, Dorothea Mackellar wrote the iconic Australian poem *My Country*, with the famous lines: *I love a sunburnt country, A land of sweeping plains, Of ragged mountain ranges, Of droughts and flooding rains.* As we know, much of Australia has been focused on the drought aspect for more than a decade. Yet, just before Christmas 2010 we witnessed the other extremes of nature, with record rainfalls recorded in many parts of Queensland and later Victoria in early 2011. This led to some of the worst flooding in Australia's history, which has made it arguably the nation's worst natural disaster. Our thoughts go out to those both directly and indirectly affected by these events as they show the Aussie spirit, character and strength to rebuild their lives. ■

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

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Volume 76 – No. 1

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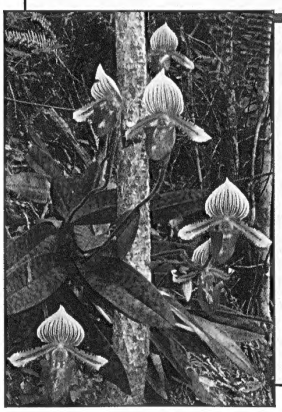
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Cover Shot

A stunning example of the Philippine slipper orchid species ***Paphiopedilum hennisianum***.

Read Jim Cootes article in this issue.

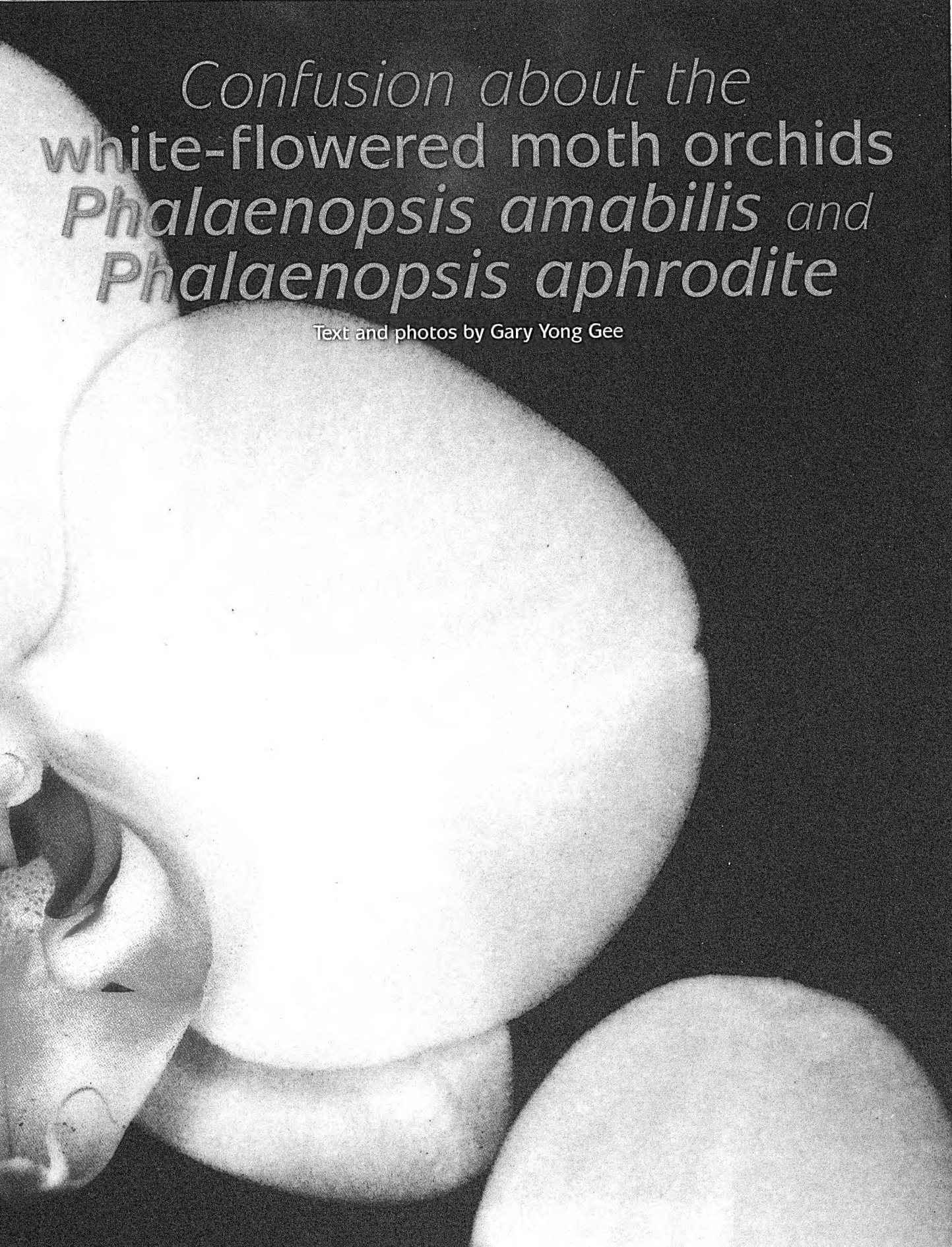
Photograph taken *in situ* by Ravan Schneider.



Phalaenopsis aphrodite* subsp. *formosana

Confusion about the white-flowered moth orchids *Phalaenopsis amabilis and Phalaenopsis aphrodite*

Text and photos by Gary Yong Gee



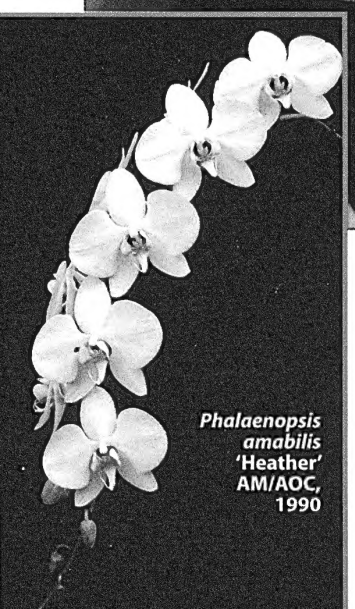
Phalaenopsis aphrodite still commonly gets confused with *Phal. amabilis*. Hybrids derived from these two different species will inherit different traits. It is probably not surprising that some of the so-called line-bred *Phal. amabilis* are the result of hybrids between the two species. Unfortunately plants of *Phal. aphrodite* have been awarded in Australia under the name of *Phal. amabilis* or "*Phal. amabilis* var. *formosana*", which is not a validly published name. That name is often used by Taiwanese growers.

I hope that this article will clarify the distinctions between *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis aphrodite*.

The triangular mid-lobe of the lip of *Phal. aphrodite* separates it from any of the related species. *Phal. aphrodite* is also readily identified by the shield-shaped callus at the junction of the side lobes and mid-lobe of the lip. Herman Sweet (1980) says that no other species in this complex has "a finger-like extension protruding dorsally and topping the quadrate emarginate lobes of the callus".



***Phalaenopsis amabilis* 'Heather' AM/AOC, 1990**



***Phalaenopsis amabilis* 'Heather' AM/AOC, 1990**

Phalaenopsis amabilis

Phalaenopsis amabilis (L.) Blume is the type species for the genus *Phalaenopsis*. Carl von Linné (Linnaeus) first described this taxon as *Epidendrum amabile* in *Species Plantarum* in 1753. He based it on a plant collected from western Java. Linnaeus gave it the specific epithet from the Latin *amabile* (lovely) for the beautiful showy flowers. Carl von Blume transferred this species to his new genus *Phalaenopsis* in his *Bijdragen tot de Flora von Nederlandsch Indie* in 1825.

Part of the confusion between *Phal. amabilis* and *Phal. aphrodite* is that they have similar growth habits. Both have short, pendulous stems with the lower portion covered by overlapping sheathing leaf bases. The leaf bases become dry and grey-brown when the leaf is shed after four or five years.



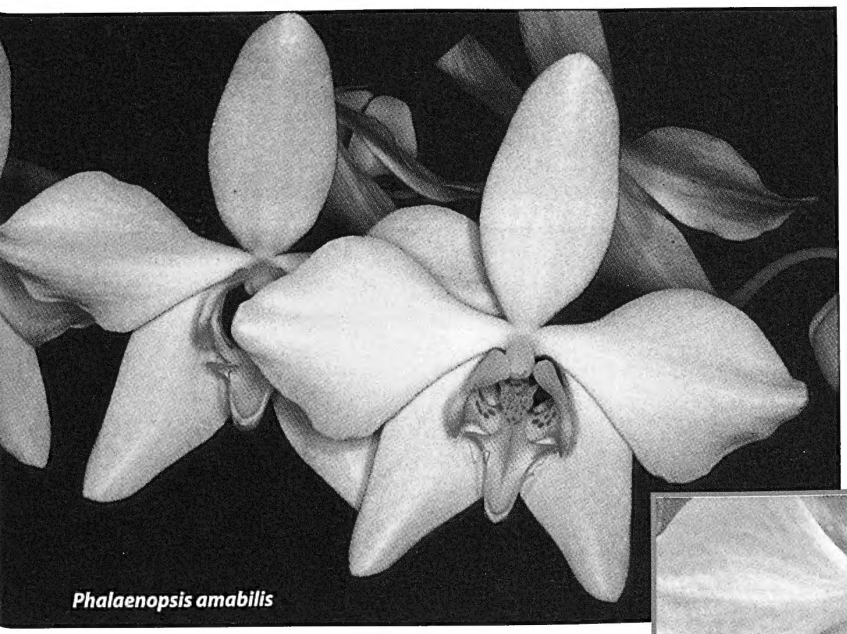
Phalaenopsis amabilis lacking red marks on lip

At the apex of the stems are 3-5 fleshy, leathery pendent or semi-pendent leaves. Borne in two ranks, the alternating oblong to oval or drop-shaped leaves are 15-50 cm long and 4-10 cm broad. The shiny green leaves have rounded or slightly pointed tips. Up to 25 flowers are produced along a stem which is occasionally branched and comes from a node opposite the base of a leaf. The stem is green with a purple tinge and can be 30-100 cm long. Nodes from lower down on the raceme may branch after the first flush of flowers, thereby providing a later flowering.

The large showy flowers of *Phal. amabilis* are 7.5-10 cm across and have milk-white sepals and petals. Rarely, the sepals may be flushed pink on the outer surface, particularly near the base. The tri-lobed lip is variable in colour and is white with rich yellow margins along the front of the side-lobes and the base of the mid-lobe. The two-lobed golden-yellow callus is between the side-lobes. The basal portion of the side-lobes and the callus are usually striped or spotted with red to crimson The shield-shaped callus has the upper edge terminating in one pair of divergent teeth. It is important to note that the mid-lobe of the lip is cruciform (cross-shaped). The flowers are not scented and last for 3-5 weeks.

Phal. amabilis is widely distributed from Indonesia to Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines.

The variety *aurea* (Hort.) Rolfe is distinguished by a yellow lip mid-lobe and is found in Borneo. The subsp. *moluccana* (Schltr.) Christenson, does not have a cruciform mid-lobe as it lacks the lateral lobes, which seems inconsistent with calling it a subspecies of *Phal. amabilis*. It is found in Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Borneo.



Phalaenopsis amabilis



Phalaenopsis amabilis with perpendicular lateral sepals

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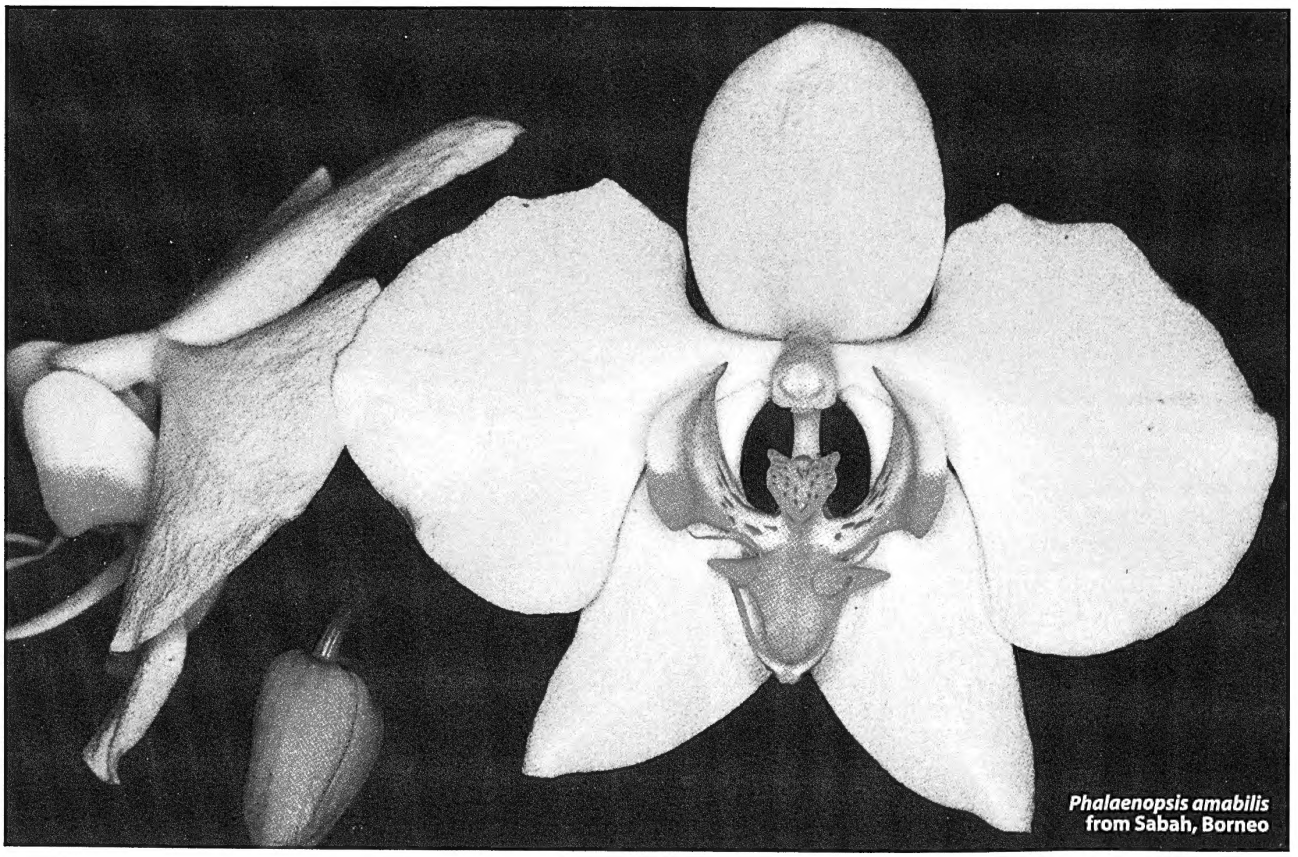


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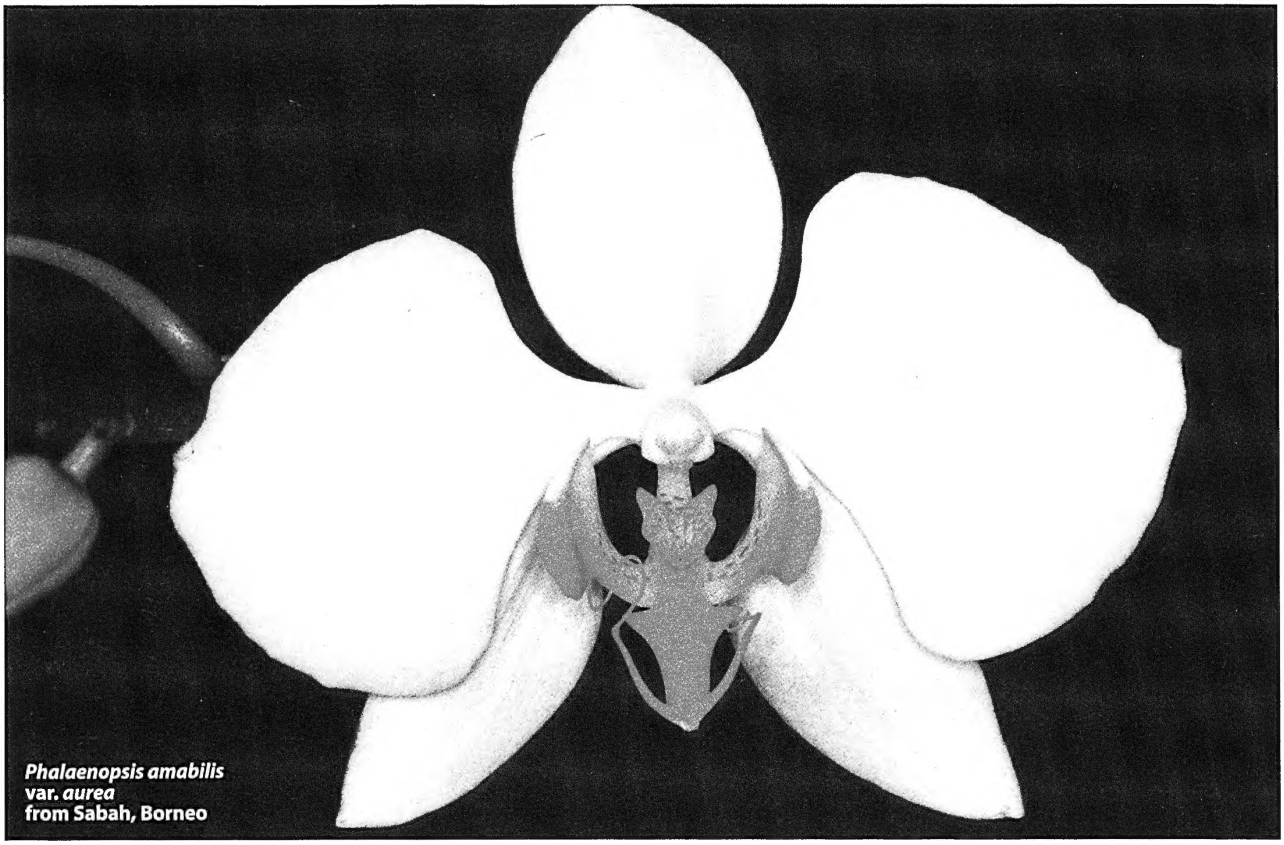
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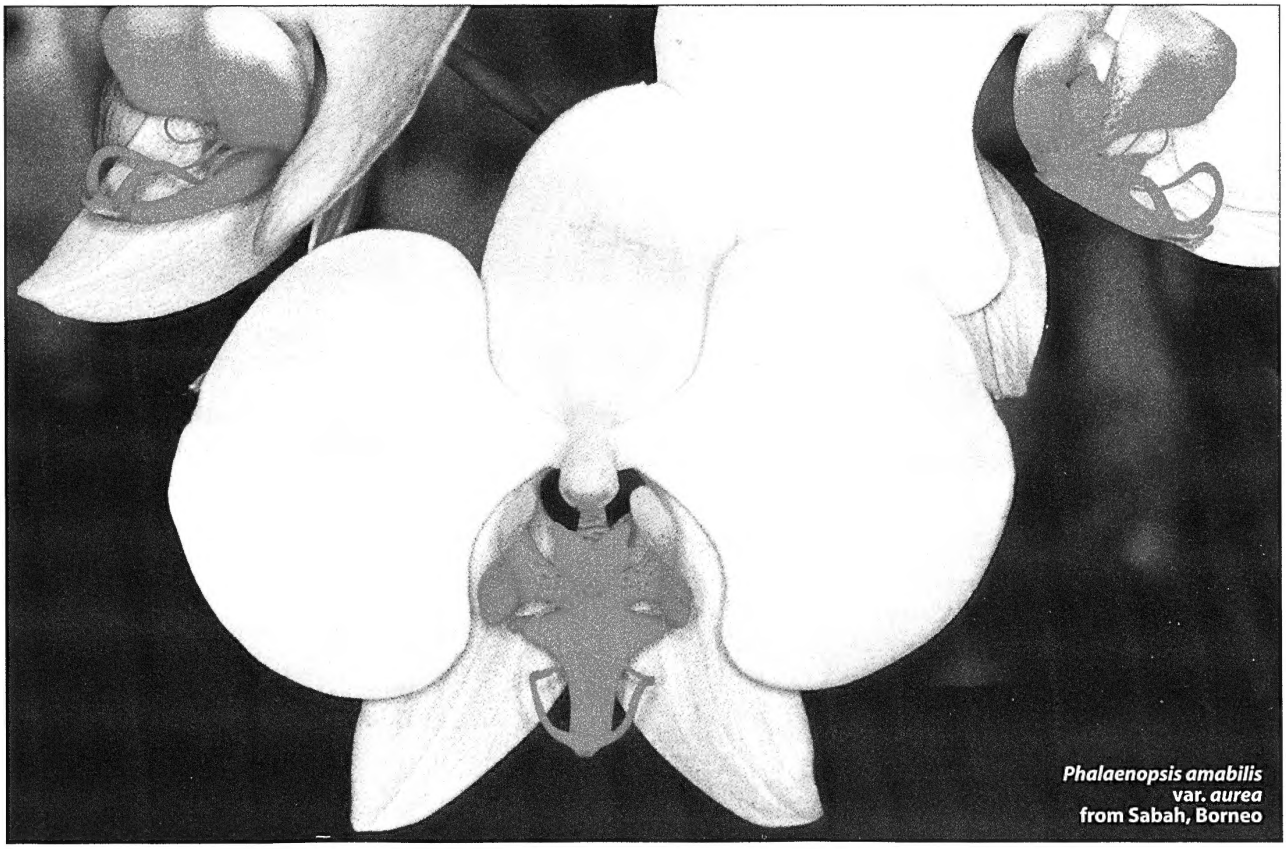
Phalaenopsis amabilis
from Sabah, Borneo



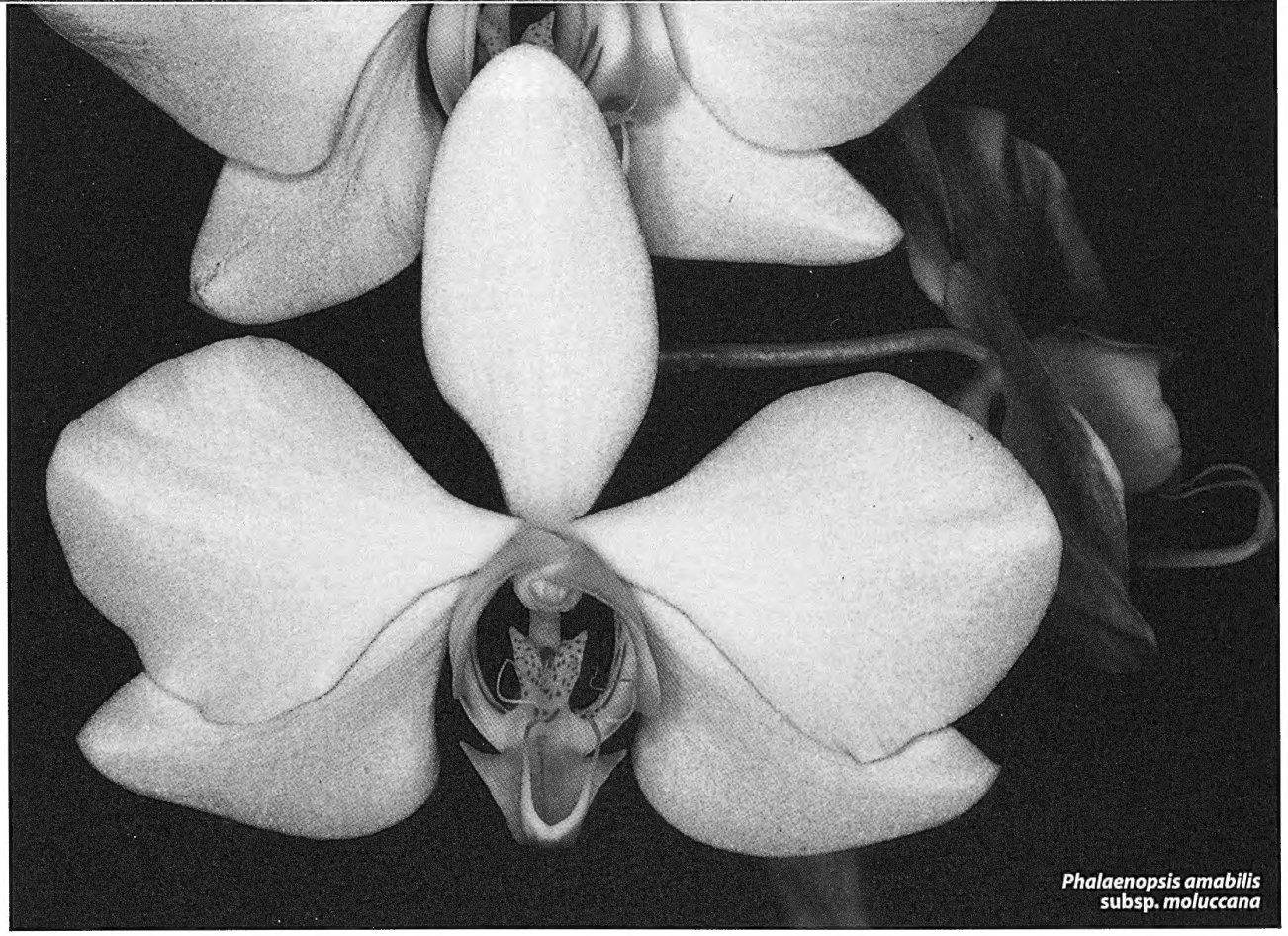
Phalaenopsis amabilis
from Sabah, Borneo



Phalaenopsis amabilis
var. *aurea*
from Sabah, Borneo



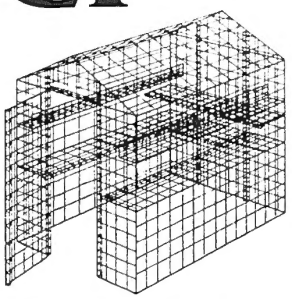
Phalaenopsis amabilis
var. *aurea*
from Sabah, Borneo



Phalaenopsis amabilis subsp. *moluccana*

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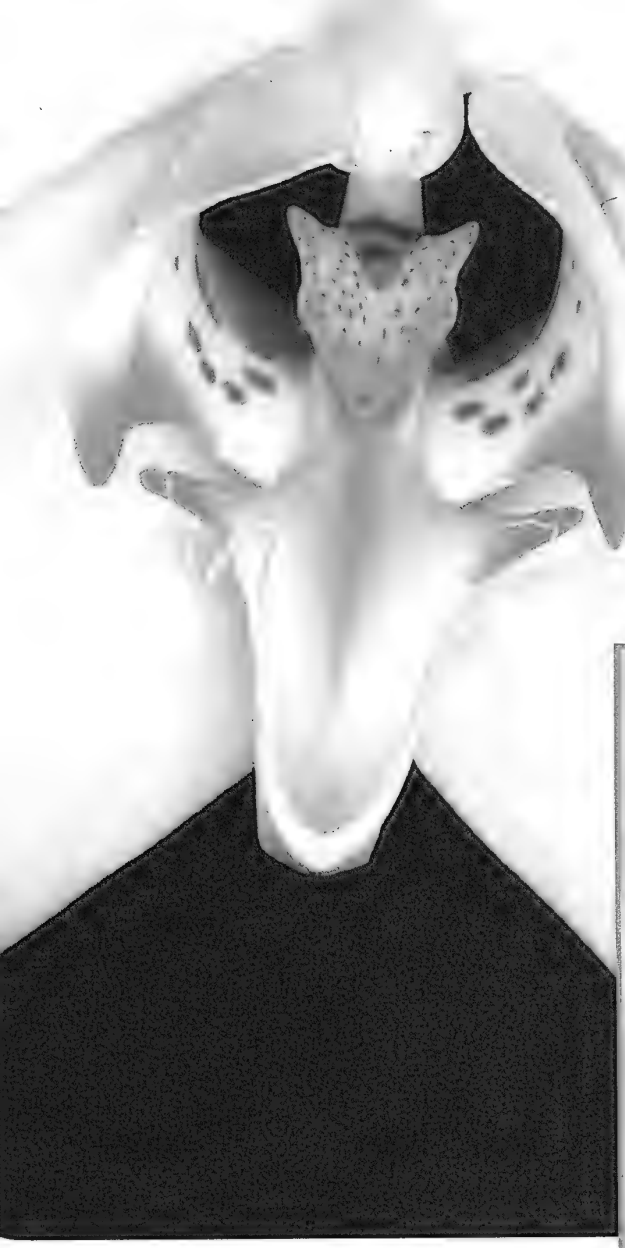
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Above:
Lip of ***Phalaenopsis amabilis***

Below:
Lip of ***Phalaenopsis amabilis***



Right: Lip of
Phalaenopsis amabilis
var. *aurea*
from Sabah, Borneo



Left: Lip of
Phalaenopsis amabilis
var. *aurea*
from Sabah, Borneo

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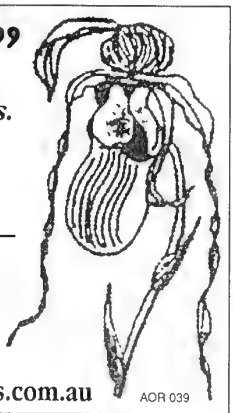
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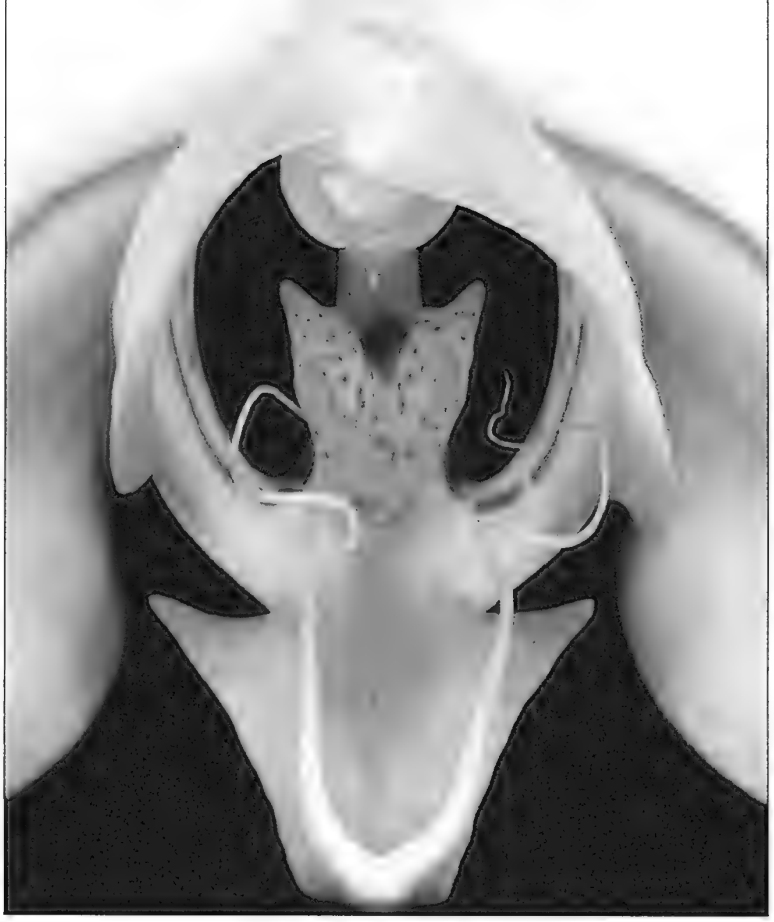
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Left: Lip of ***Phalaenopsis amabilis* subsp. *moluccana***

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Phalaenopsis rosenstromii or *Phal. amabilis* subsp. *rosenstromii*

Plants that were referred to as *Phal. amabilis* var. *papuana* Schltr. from New Guinea and North Queensland are recognised by Mark Clements (1989) and David Jones (2006) as *Phal. rosenstromii* F.M.Bailey. Just to confuse matters, Eric Christenson (2001) treats them as *Phal. amabilis* subsp. *rosenstromii* (F.M.Bailey) Christenson. I prefer to use the name *Phal. rosenstromii* for now.

Phalaenopsis rosenstromii was first described by Frederick Bailey in the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* in 1906. The specific epithet honours G. Rosenstrom, collector of the type.

Our only native *Phalaenopsis* is distinguished from *Phal. amabilis* by smaller flowers which do not have the cruciform mid-lobe. Hence, the mid-lobe is shaped more like an elongated triangle. Mark Clements also reports that the base of the mid-lobe is broader than *Phal. amabilis*. Further research on this taxon will help to confirm its status.

The flowers of *Phal. rosenstromii* are 5-7 cm across. Its 3-lobed lip is usually marked with yellow on the side-lobes and mid-lobe, particularly the front margin of the side-lobes and base of the mid-lobe. The base of the side-lobes are usually streaked and they and the callus are spotted with red to red-brown. Its callus has the upper edge terminating in one pair of divergent teeth.

Phal. rosenstromii is not common in north Queensland and is found in small colonies between the Iron Range and Mount Spec. It grows on trees and rarely on rocks, usually in rainforest between 200-500 m altitude. The habitat is often close to water courses, gorges, gullies and streams so the plants always grow in humid airy situations.

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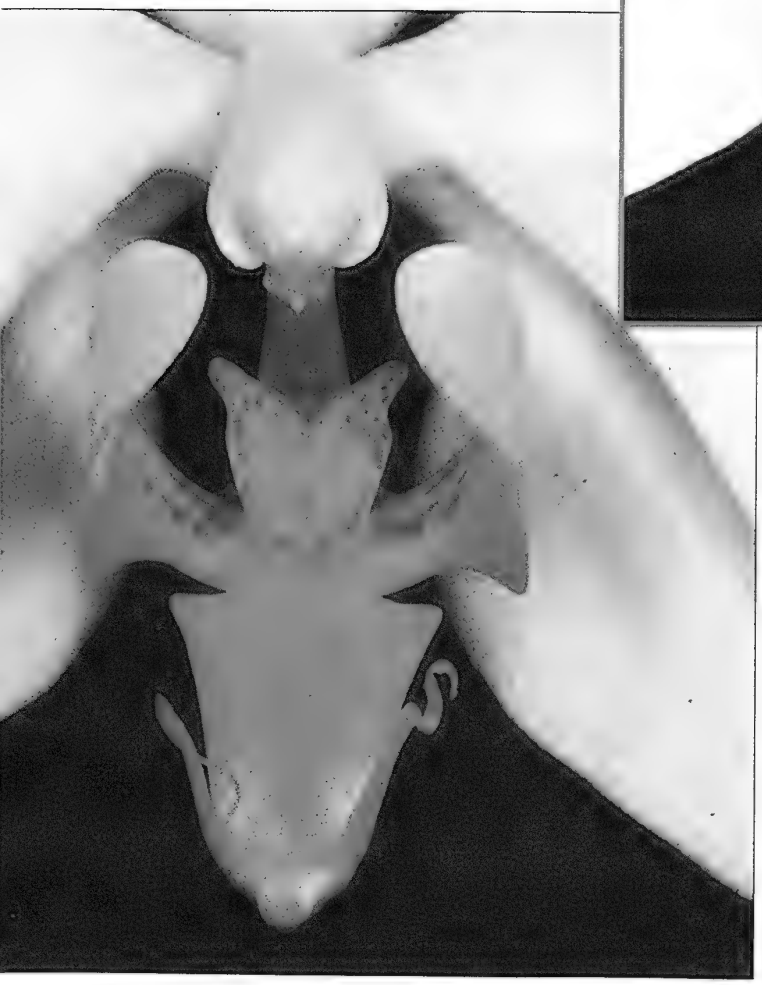
Phalaenopsis rosenstromii



Phalaenopsis rosenstromii



Right: Lip of *Phalaenopsis rosenstromii*



Left: Lip of *Phalaenopsis rosenstromii*



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Left: Lip of *Phalaenopsis rosenstromii*

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Phalaenopsis aphrodite

Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach described *Phal. aphrodite* in *Hamburger Garten-und Blumenzeitung* in 1862. Reichenbach gave it the specific epithet from Greek mythology, naming it for Aphrodite the goddess of love and beauty in reference to the beautiful flowers. *Phal. aphrodite* is distributed in the northern Philippines and south-eastern Taiwan. It grows in primary and secondary forests between sea level and 300 m altitude.

As mentioned earlier, *Phal. aphrodite* has a similar growth habit to *Phal. amabilis,* having 3-5 elliptic to oblong-ovate leaves that are 20-30 cm long and 5-8 cm broad. The leaves are normally slightly smaller than *amabilis* and may be suffused or tinged red or purple on the underside.

The flowers of *Phal. aphrodite* are 5-7 cm across, may have a greenish suffusion and are not scented. Occasionally the lateral sepals may have minute carmine dots on the inner basal half. The lip and callus are sometimes marked with yellow and red. The lip is basically white with the base of the lobes dotted or striped carmine-red. The mid-lobe may have a tinge of crimson at the base. The margins of the lateral lobes and the mid-lobe have golden yellow markings. It is important to note that the mid-lobe of the lip is the shape of an equilateral triangle. The callus is golden yellow to orange-yellow spotted with fine carmine dots.

The typical Philippines *Phal. aphrodite* subsp. *aphrodite* is seldom found in collections. The subsp. *aphrodite* seems to have a much more open flower form and could at first glance be more easily confused with *Phal. amabilis*. In addition, the underside of the leaves and the flower stem of subsp. *aphrodite* are flushed with purple.



Phalaenopsis aphrodite
subsp. *aphrodite*
(Photo: Nelson Geraldino)



Phalaenopsis aphrodite
subsp. *aphrodite*

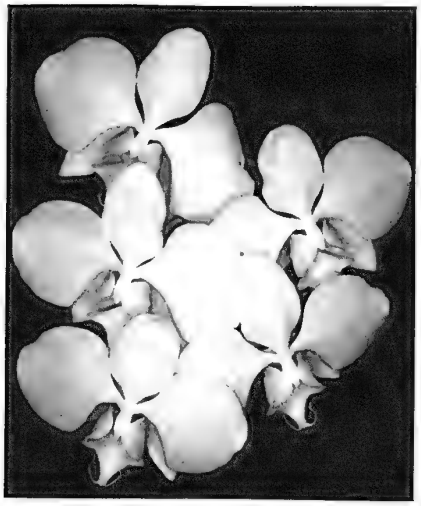


Above:
Phalaenopsis aphrodite* subsp. *aphrodite
from Cebu, Philippines
(Photo Peter O'Byrne)



Lip of *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* subsp. *aphrodite*

Below:
Phalaenopsis aphrodite* subsp. *aphrodite
from Cebu, Philippines
(Photo Peter O'Byrne)



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Phalaenopsis aphrodite subsp. formosana

Phalaenopsis aphrodite subsp. *formosana*

Phalaenopsis aphrodite Rchb.f. subsp. *formosana* Christenson is a recently described subspecies of *Phal. aphrodite* that is endemic to Taiwan. Eric Christenson described it in his *Phalaenopsis - A Monograph* in 2001. Christenson named it for its place of origin in Taiwan, which was historically known as Formosa. Subsp. *formosana* is known only from a small area on the Taiwanese mainland and several of the neighbouring islands (Babuyan, Lan-yeu and Lu-tao).

Phalaenopsis aphrodite subsp. *formosana* is the most commonly seen subspecies in cultivation, with numerous seedlings that have been propagated and line-bred by the Taiwanese.

Cultivars of subsp. *formosana* have petals that are only shortly clawed at the base and proportionately broader, so that the petals overlap the dorsal sepal giving the flower a filled-in or rounded form. Due to the full-shaped form, with overlapped sepals and petals, cultivars of *Phal. aphrodite* subsp. *formosana* are often awarded by various judging systems. Unfortunately, as mentioned above, many of them have been awarded incorrectly as *Phal. amabilis*.

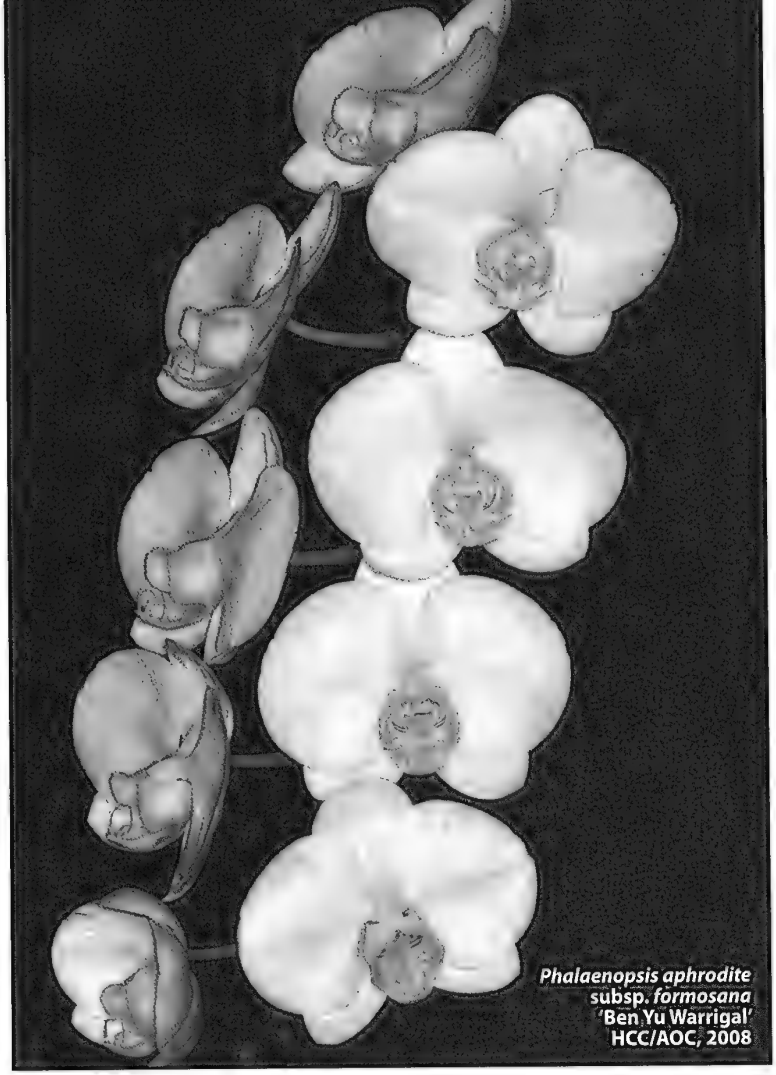
A distinguishing characteristic of *Phal. aphrodite* is that the posterior edge of the callus is divided into four teeth. Lacking any purple pigmentation, the leaves and the inflorescence of *Phal. aphrodite* subsp. *formosana* are apple green. Generally the fleshy, almost succulent leaves are more upright and don't tend to be as pendent as *Phal. amabilis*. There is also a variegated-leaved form in cultivation. The inflorescences of *Phal. aphrodite* subsp. *formosana* are usually branched on large mature plants and bear smaller flowers than subsp. *aphrodite*.



Phalaenopsis aphrodite
subsp. *formosana*



Phalaenopsis aphrodite
subsp. *formosana*
'Ben Yu'
AM/AOC, 2008



Phalaenopsis aphrodite subsp. *formosana* 'Ben Yu Warrigal' HCC/AOC, 2008

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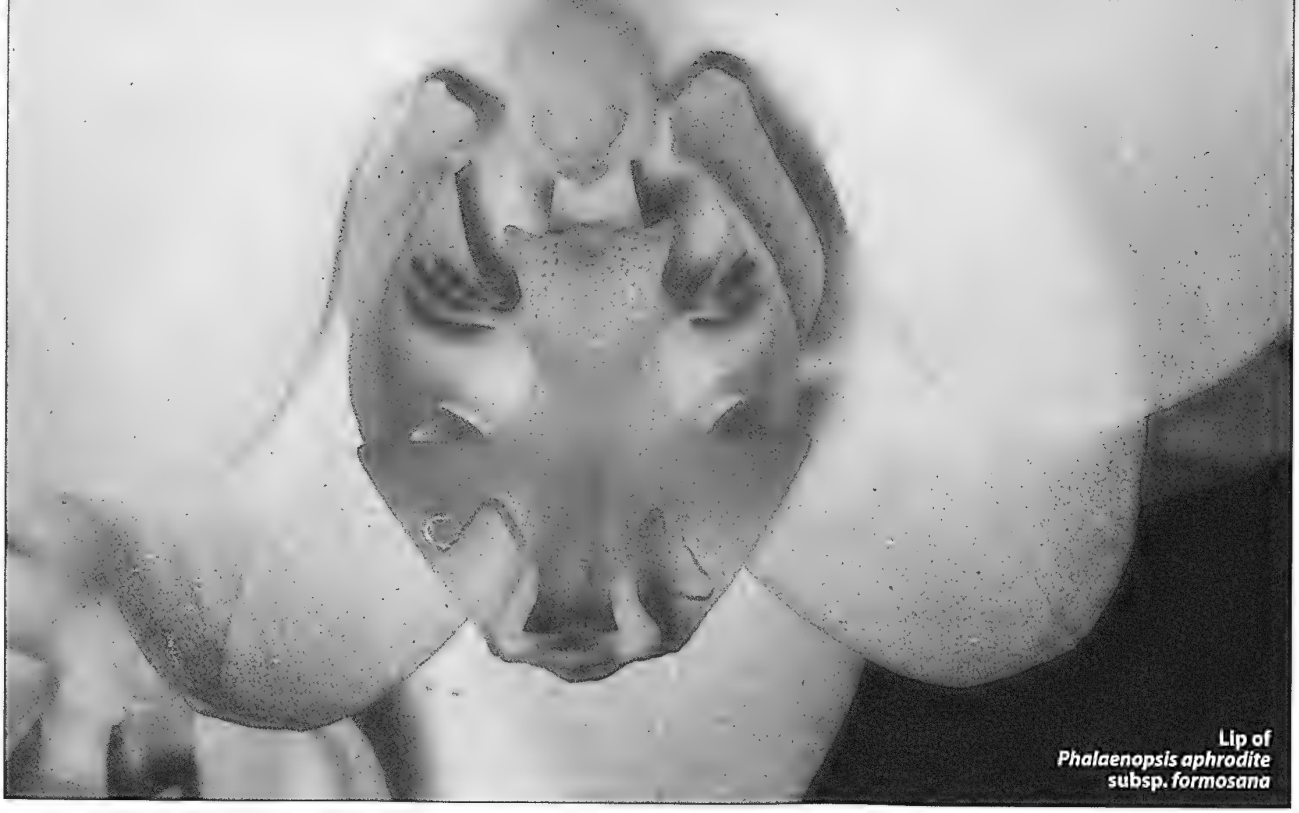
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Below:
Lip of *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* subsp. *formosana*







Left: Lip of
Phalaenopsis aphrodite
subsp. *formosana*
'Ben Yu Warrigal'
HCC/AOC, 2008

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Cultivation

Due to the long pendulous leaves, *Phal. amabilis* and *Phal. rosenstromii* are perhaps better suited to slab culture or could be grown on the side of a basket. Potted plants can be hung or tilted to allow the leaves to hang. Growing them in this way will allow the crown of the plant to drain freely. By trying to grow the plants upright, problems are more likely to occur if environmental conditions are not right. Provide high humidity and good air circulation at all times. *Phal. amabilis* and *Phal. rosenstromii* seem to grow and flower with low light levels such as 80% shade. Maintain a winter minimum of 15° C with plenty of water during the warmer months. Mounted plants may need daily watering or misting during summer. Liquid fertiliser can be applied regularly while the root tips are green. Plants should not be allowed to remain dry for long periods, but watering frequency may need to be reduced in winter while the plants are not actively growing.

Phal. aphrodite seems to be adaptable to sub-tropical winter conditions without the need for heating. Growers in cold areas will need a heated glasshouse or plants may be grown indoors during the winter months. The plants seem to survive low temperatures down to 10-12° C for short periods provided that the leaves are dry at night. However, the plants seem to do better with a winter minimum of 15° C. Grow it under approximately 80% shade using a well-drained potting medium. Good air circulation will ensure that water does not remain on the leaves or in the crown of the plants. Provide plenty of water during the warmer months with a reduction in winter while the root tips are no longer green. Regular applications of liquid fertiliser are also beneficial during its growing phase. Plants should not be allowed to dry out for long periods and will still need occasional water or misting on sunny mornings during its winter rest period.

Conclusion

Phal. amabilis is often confused with the related *Phal. aphrodite*. *Phal. amabilis* has larger flowers, a cruciform lip mid-lobe and a callus with the upper edge terminating in one pair of divergent teeth. *Phal. aphrodite* has smaller flowers, an equilateral-triangular lip mid-lobe and a differently shaped callus with the upper edge terminating in two pairs of almost parallel teeth.

Phal. rosenstromii can be distinguished from *Phal. amabilis* by smaller flowers that lack the lateral lobes at the base of the lip mid-lobe.

Phalaenopsis aphrodite subsp. *formosana* can be distinguished from subsp. *aphrodite* by the upright plant habit, lack of purple colouration in the leaves and flower stem and smaller flowers that have more rounded form.

Due to the confusion between *Phal. amabilis* and *Phal. aphrodite*, it's not surprising that judges have awarded plants under incorrect names. As the Taiwanese continue to use the incorrect name for *Phal. aphrodite* subsp. *formosana*, this doesn't make it easy for growers to name their plants and for breeders to hybridise accurately. We all need to be careful to make sure that we have plants named correctly.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Jim Cootes for help in obtaining a photograph of *Phal. aphrodite* subsp. *aphrodite* from Dr. Nelson Geraldino, plus other images from Danny Tiu and Peter O'Byrne. Roger Sawkins helped simplify the text to make it easier to understand.

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Fig. 1 *Phalaenopsis* Brother Spring Dancer 'Peloric'



Fig. 2 *Phalaenopsis* Minitris 'Peloric'



Fig. 3 *Phalaenopsis* [*violacea* x Jungo Viotris] 'Peloric'

Peloric *Phalaenopsis* Hybrids

by Dr Graham McKay

Peloric *Phalaenopsis* are generally defined as a mutated form where the two normal petals come under the influence of genes that directs the production of the shape of these petals similar to a specialised lip or labellum.

The effect can be variable with the petals having a mild degree of lip colour and form and others having a complete lip presentation. Many varieties have a deformed shape to these petals (Fig. 1, 2, 3) and very few have a flat presentation (Fig. 4).

Additional control genes are responsible for the lip structure and colour during development. Dean Stock [published in *Phalaenopsis*, 2005, 15 (1)] suggests that most Peloric *Phalaenopsis* are aneuploid having 3N or somewhere between 2N and 4N copies of parental chromosomes. This would account for the additional copies of the control genes in Peloric *Phalaenopsis* and why they are so hard to breed with. The suggestion has been made that such breeding should not be encouraged. This is because many of these Peloric *Phalaenopsis* have distorted petals with a presentation that reflects forward, making them unacceptable for show presentation.



Fig. 4 *Phalaenopsis* Taida Sunset 'GiGi's Peloric'



Fig. 5 *Phalaenopsis* Sasquatch 'Warrigal'



Fig. 6 *Phalaenopsis* [Kung's Amar Whitegold x Ching Ann Beauty] x *P.* World Class 'Big Foot'

Big Lip 'Peloric' *Phalaenopsis* are a quite different form where the specialised petal (lip) has lost its function as a guide towards the pistil or stigmatic area. In such forms the lip is partially (Fig. 5) or fully (Fig. 6) converted into an additional petal. Mr D. Diehm (Dendi Orchids) has suggested that the 'Big Lip' genetics may be due to a mutation arising from the historical parent *Phal.* Doris. *Phal.* Doris is the original tetraploid white principally responsible for the development of our present day wonderful array of tetraploid (4n) varieties. While all things are possible, I am inclined to agree with Dean Stock who advises that in 'Big Lip' genetics the genes that are partitioned away from normal petal genes in normal lip formation have been either lost or blocked and now you have a lip that is basically a petal.

They should breed true to a much larger extent than other types of Peloria since they are not aneuploid in chromosome count.

Big Lip 'Peloric' *Phalaenopsis* are principally derived from *Phal.* World Class 'Big Foot' (*Phal.* Mae Hitch x *Phal.* Kathy Sagaert) registered in 1990. It is in this cross that the genes for normal lip formation were either lost or blocked. Dean Stock (pers. comm.), while not sure, believes the original *Phal.* World Class was tetraploid. If that assumption is true, then it should only be bred to other tetraploids.

This rule should be maintained otherwise we are at risk of creating beautiful aneuploid varieties that cannot progress further with development. Only pollen fertile plants should be used in order to maintain a tetraploid progression. We are likely to see many beautiful triploid and aneuploid 'Big Lip' varieties which have been made either in ignorance of the genetics or so that breeding by competitors is restricted.

Early 'Big Lip' hybridisation was slow but more recently Mr Dennis Diehm, the Taiwanese and I have been extensively using 'Big Lip Genetics' to produce many new progeny. My own breeding results suggest a tetraploid (4n) behaviour and many crosses have produced initially about 30 per cent 'Big Lip'progeny. Mr Lin (Brother Orchids) and Mr Hung (Tying Shin Orchids) suggested using 'Big Lip' to 'Big Lip' will increase the percentage of 'Big Lip' progeny (Personal Communication with delegates at the International *Phalaenopsis* Alliance Symposium 2010, Ontario, California, USA.).

Mr Diehm (Dendi Orchids) has reported higher percentages in some of his crosses. Currently, we all have 'Big Lip' breeding for most *Phalaenopsis* varieties either in flask or near flowering size. Mr Diehm has a wonderful collage of photographs (Flickr: Dendi Orchids Photostream using Google Search.).

One of the first quality awards in Australia for such styles was granted in December 2009 to *Phal.* Yu Pin Easter Island 'GiGi' HCC-AD/AOC (Fig. 7). This was a very large clone of this particular hybrid, although the lip development is not an exceptional example. The other examples (Fig. 8 [Stem propagations available April 2011], 9, 10) show better lip development. Hopefully the AOC Judging Panels will welcome more information and develop criteria for this new and exciting line of breeding. Some examples of other breeding plants I have been using are shown in Fig. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Additionally examples seen overseas include Fig. 18 and 19.

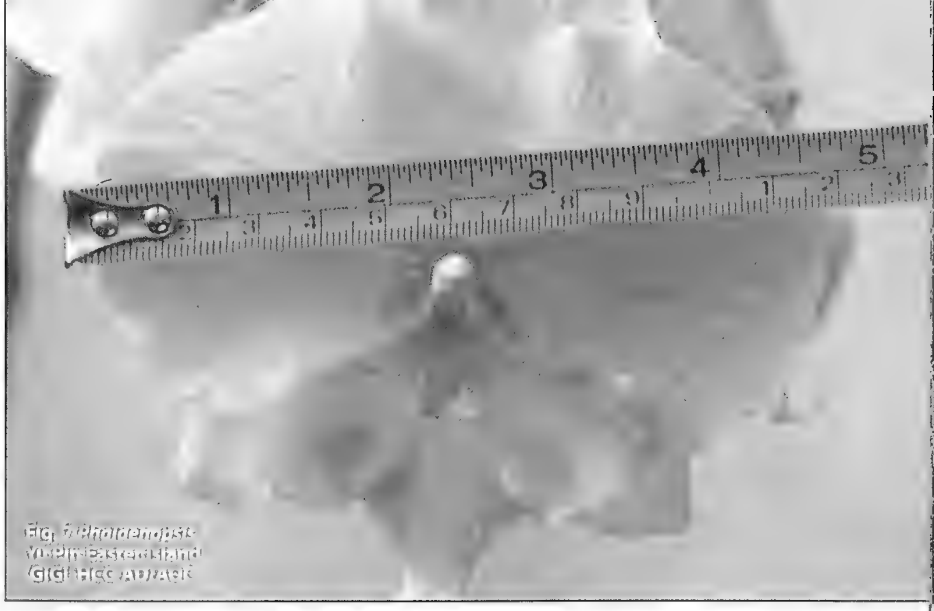


Fig. 7 *Phalaenopsis* Yu Pin Easter Island 'GiGi' HCC-AD/AOC



Right:
Fig. 8 Breeder, Mr Huang with ***Phalaenopsis*** **Yu Pin Easter Island 'Warrigal No1'**

Below:
Fig. 9 *Phalaenopsis* Yu Pin Easter Island 'Warrigal No2'



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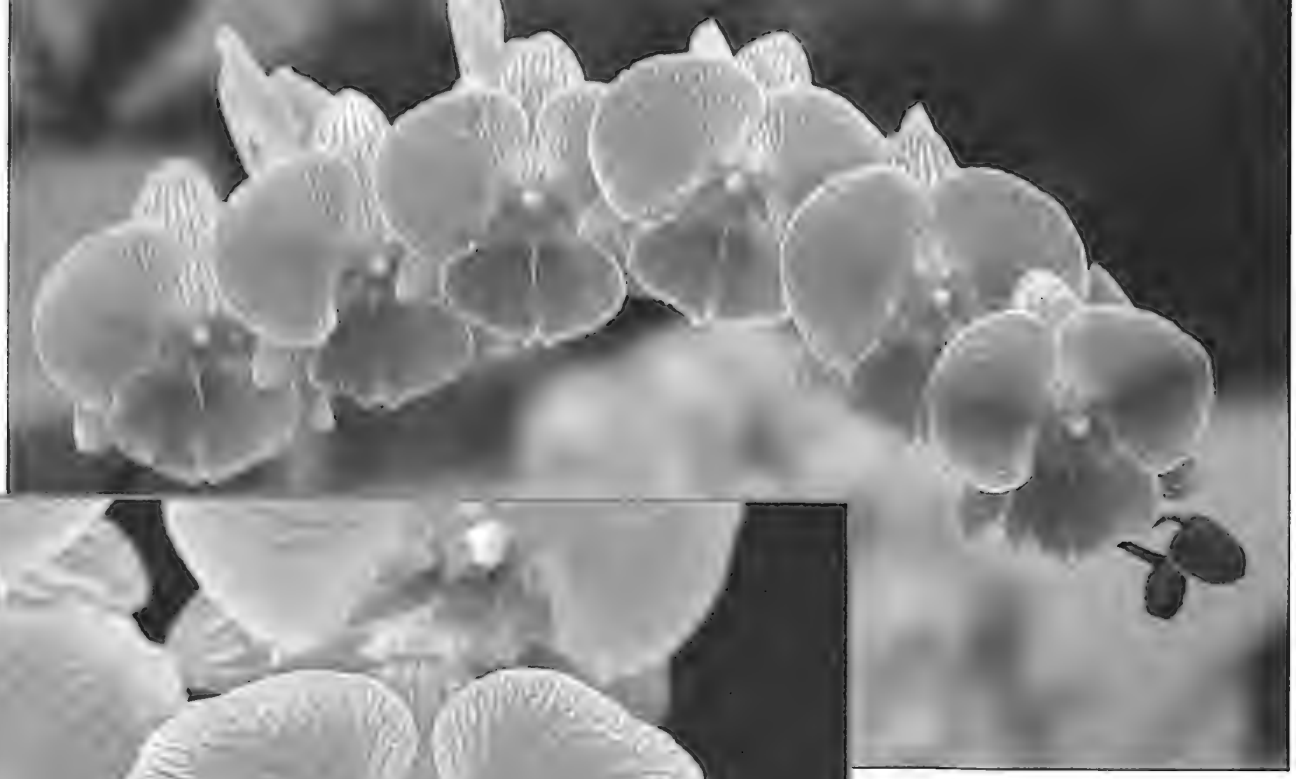
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Above:
Fig. 10 *Phalaenopsis*
Yu Pin Easter Island
'Kong Sir'



Left:
Fig. 11 *Phalaenopsis*
Dendi's Meh-Teh
'Warrigal'



Fig. 12 *Phalaenopsis*
Dendi's Meh-Teh
'Warrigal Beauty'



Fig. 13 *Phalaenopsis* Dendi's Meh-Teh 'GiGi'

As additional variety presentations with striped, blushed, coloured lips (red, white, orange), spotted, novelty, *lobbii* forms, miniature, harlequin and French spot in all their colour forms become available, 'Big Lip' *Phalaenopsis* will represent a wonderful new direction in *Phalaenopsis* genetics. In time, this may demand a showbench class of its own. Every new challenge for our hobby requires the insight and dedication of our membership to explore such new opportunities. *Phalaenopsis* has several directions for new development, and I believe 'Big Lip' genetics is certainly one to encourage and support in future years.

Dr Graham McKay
Australian Director
International Phalaenopsis Alliance
PO Box 874
Toowong Qld 4066
Email: info@gigiorchids.com.au
Web: www.gigiorchids.com.au



Fig. 14 *Phalaenopsis* Dendi's Meh-Teh 'GiGi No2'



Left:
Fig. 15 *Phalaenopsis* Dendi's Higadon 'Warrigal'

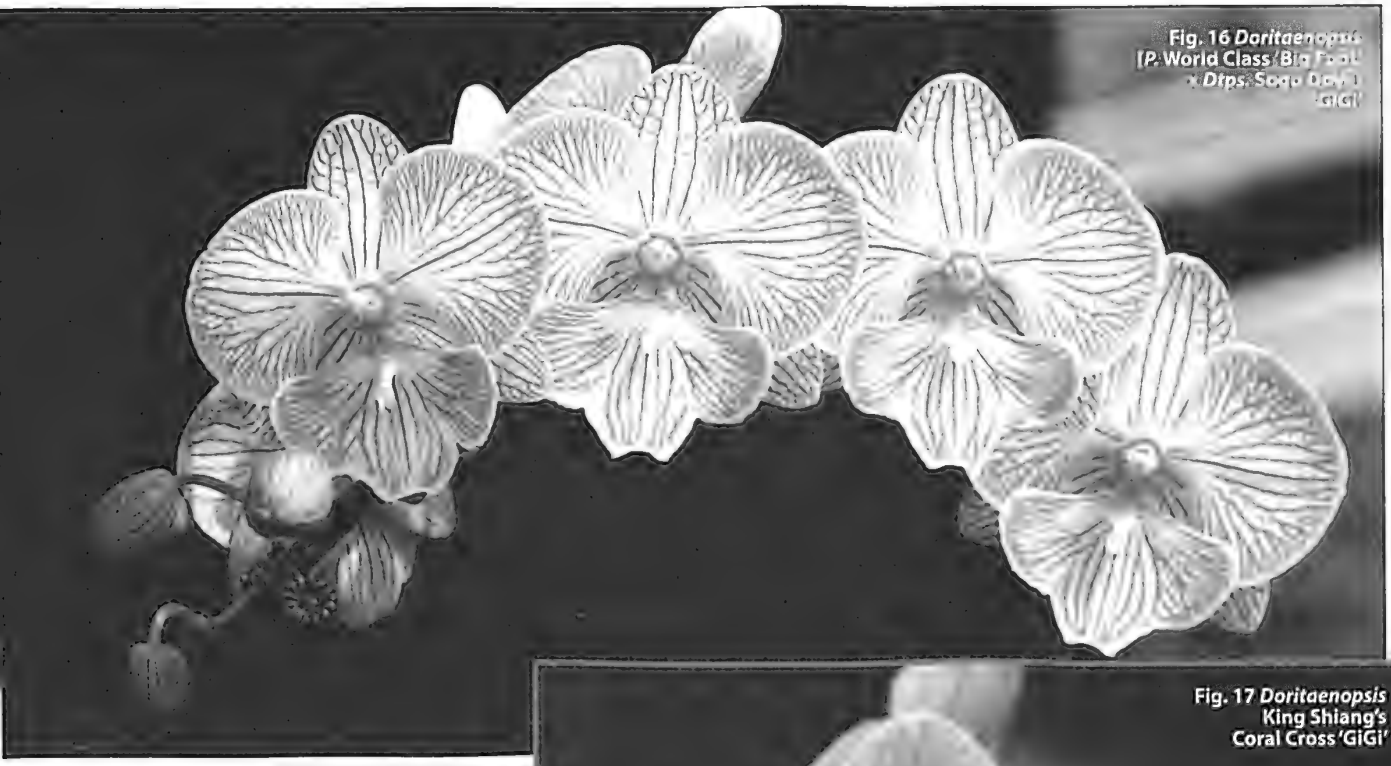


Fig. 16 *Doritaenopsis* [P. World Class 'Big Foot' x *Dtps.* Sogo Dove] 'GiGi'



Fig. 17 *Doritaenopsis* King Shiang's Coral Cross 'GiGi'

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Fig. 18 *Phalaenopsis*
"Big Foot Hybrid"
- Champion Orchids



Fig. 19 *Doritaenopsis*
Yu Pin Freckles
'YPM 903'

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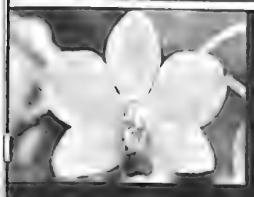
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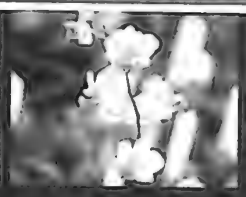


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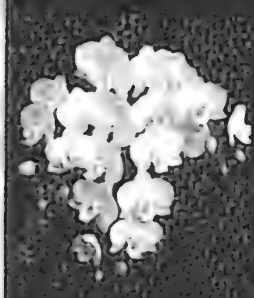




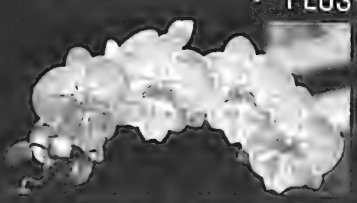


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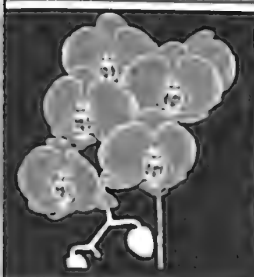
Dtps (P World Class 'Big Foot' x Dtps Sogo Dove) GiGi
- my breeding plant

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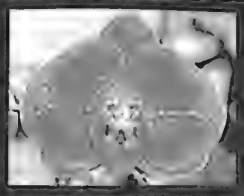
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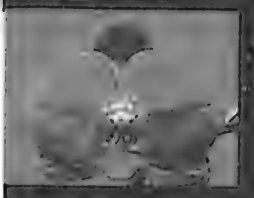


Dtps Fusheng Pink Pearl (used in breeding)

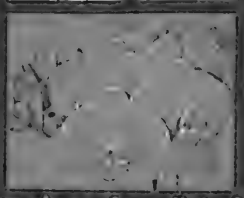


Dtps Lioullin Black Lotus 'GiGi'
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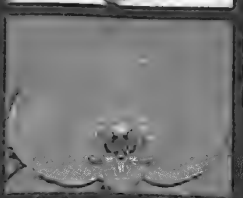
Please note that the images of these clones are scanned photos and do not accurately represent the actual colour which is violet-black-purple without any red. Lip colour also selected to be black-purple.



Dtps Fusheng Purple Velvet Mount 'AAA'

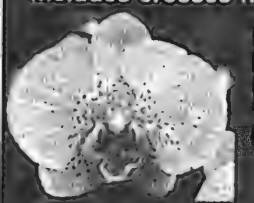


Dtps Fusheng Purple Velvet Mount 'AAB'

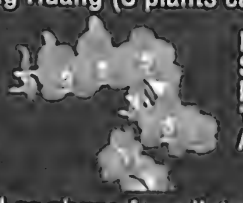


Dtps Fusheng Purple Velvet Mount 'FU#1'

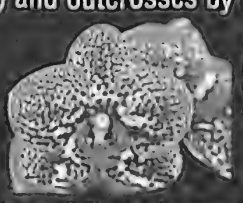
Email or phone for a list of hybrid crosses of these mother plants.
Includes crosses from Fusheng Huang (3 plants ea **$20.00**) and outcrosses by Mr Hung [Tying Shin] (single **$15.00**)



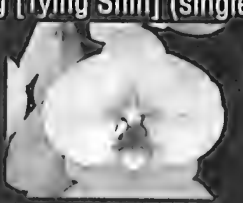
P YuPin Easter Island 'GiGi' HCC/AO/AOC



P Tying Shin Miracle 'GiGi' AM/AOC



Dtps Lioullin Wild Cat 'GiGi'



P Crystal Touch 'Warrigal No 2' HCC/AOC

Email or phone for a list of compots and flasks in production using Dr McKay's exceptional breeding plants mentioned above and many others. Pre-order now.

MINIMUM ORDER FOR $100.00 PLUS POSTAGE AS ADVISED

ORCHID GROWERS ACCESSORIES CATALOGUE 2011

The most comprehensive catalogue of orchid growing products in Australia

EASY ORCHIDS

Ph: 02 6682 2635 Fax: 02 6682 2605 3 Sussex Street, Woodburn 2472

ORCHIDMATE tm

Purpose designed coconut husk fibre orchid growing media designed by orchidists for use by orchidists and growers of sensitive plants.
Known pH 5.5 ~ 6.5 & EC 0.5 dS/m.
4.5kg bales that expand when wet.

MCHC3-5 Fine (3-5mm)
MCHC5-8 Small (5 - 8mm)
MCHC8-12 Medium (8 - 12mm)
MCHC12-18 Large (12 - 18mm)
MCHC20-30 Extra Large (20 - 30mm)

Price per bale $12.50
20 bales $10.50
50 bales $9.50
150 bales (pallet) $8.50

The dollar is up so the price is down. Any mix of sizes ok.



Sphagnum Moss

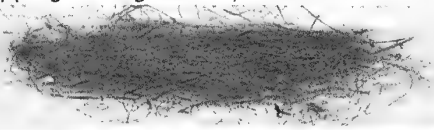
Export quality
Imported from New Zealand.

MSPA100 100g $5.90 each
MSPA150 150g $8.00 each
MSPA3 3kg $69.00 each



Coir fibre

MCOCLS 3.8kg bale $25.00 each
For use as a basket liner, for lining Vanda baskets.Great for decorative toppings. Long Strand, Loose coconut fibre



Orchidmate Ready

MCORCMATREA 10l bag $8.00
Blend of Orchidmate coconut husk chips and perlite ready to use.



Virgin Cork

MCORK $19.50 per kg



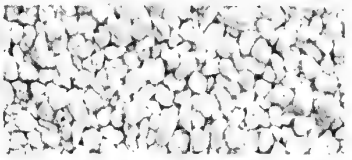
Imported from Portugal
No.1 Export Grade

Coco Peat

MCCOCPEA 4.5kg block $8.00
Coconut peat

Perlite

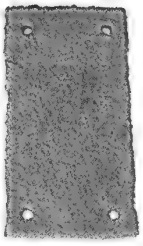
Largest grade.
MPER10 10l bag $8.00
MPER100 100l bag $35.00



Coco husk growing pad

MCPAD $3.00 each or $45.00 for 20

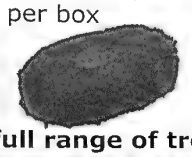
A cheaper alternative to cork.These pads can be cut to size to make 2,3, or 4 according to your needs and they grow orchids just fine.
Approx. 300mm x 150mm.

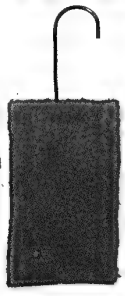


Tree Fern

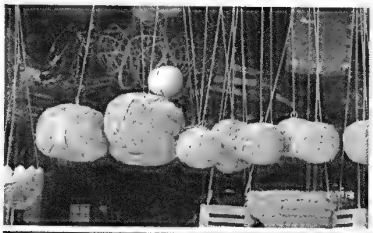
MFERNDIS Disk with hanger $15.00 each
MFERNMOU Mount small $7.00 each
MFERNMOUM Mount medium $9.00 each
MFERNMOUXL Mount X large $29.00 each
MFERNMOUXOS Mount XX Large $85.00 each
MFERN Pieces $119.00 per box

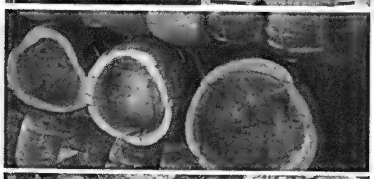


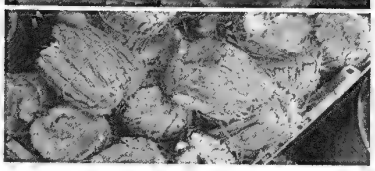




See the website for a full range of tree fern products.







Coco balls
Manufactured from coconut fibre This great new innovation is available in 3 sizes & suited to growing creeping growth plants or open the sections & insert the roots & grow any plant that loves constant moisture.
Very attractive presentation of your favorite plant.
MCOCBALS Small with stainless steel wire $2.00 each or 40 for $45.00
MCOCBALL Large $4.00 each or 5 for $17.50

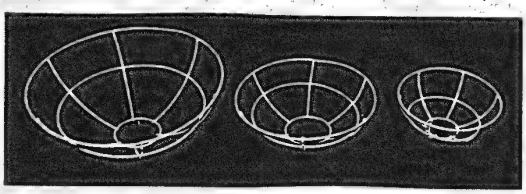
Coco husk planter
Yes now you can grow as they do in Asia, in a coconut husk that has been split, wired & is ready to be your long lasting pot.
Suitable for many plants, not just orchids.
MCOCHUSP $4.00 each or 10 for $28.00

Coconut planting pieces
As used by the Thai growers for Dendrobiums, Oncidiums and Cattleyas. Ready to use with 87mm basket pots. This must surely be the easiest growing method we know, insert the plant roots into the pre cut planter & insert into basket pot, it's that easy!
MCOCHUS87 60 cents each or 70 for $28.00

Wire products

Imported from Thailand. Best quality...Best prices
Round wire baskets Manufactured from galvanized wire & without hangers.

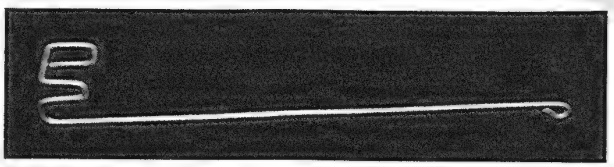
HWBAS100 100mm $2.75 ea or 120 for $275.00
HWBAS125 125mm $3.30 ea or 60 for $148.50
HWBAS150 150mm $2.75 ea or 30 for $53.90
HWBAS200 200mm $3.30 ea or 20 for $49.50
HWBAS250 250mm $4.40 ea or 20 for $72.60
HWBAS300 300mm $5.50 ea or 20 for $88.00



Staking wire
Special soft aluminum wire that can be bent & rebent to follow the growth habit of any spike.
HWSTAK600 600mm 50 cents ea or 100 for $45
HWSTAK900 900mm 95 cents ea or 100 for $75



Plant holders
HWCLIP Specially designed from soft aluminium wire.Use to hold freshly repotted plants solid in the pot. One size fits all. Reusable.
90 cents each or 25 for $17.50



Wire Hangers
Australia's best value.
Professionally made
Easily cut to size.
Made from strong galvanised wire.

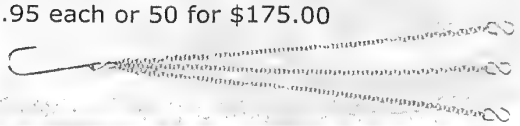


HWHAN 4 leg 900mm wire hangers
$1.00 each or 120 for $66.00

HWHAN1 1 leg 900mm wire hangers
75 cents each or 120 for $60.00

Made specially for use with coco balls.
Also good for use with other mounts.

Chain hangers
HWHANCHA Three leg adjustable length, heavy weight.
$3.95 each or 50 for $175.00



Hangers
HPHANUNI Four leg universal hangers
75 cents each or 100 for $57.00
Fits almost any pot. Black 370mm

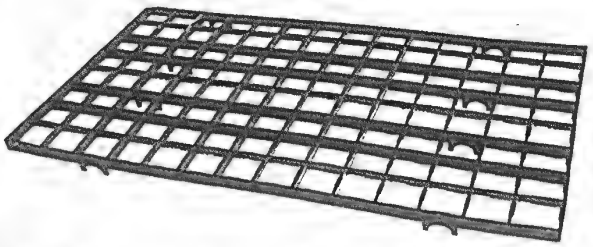


HPHANSW Quality four leg long swivel hangers
$2.20 each or 50 for $89.00

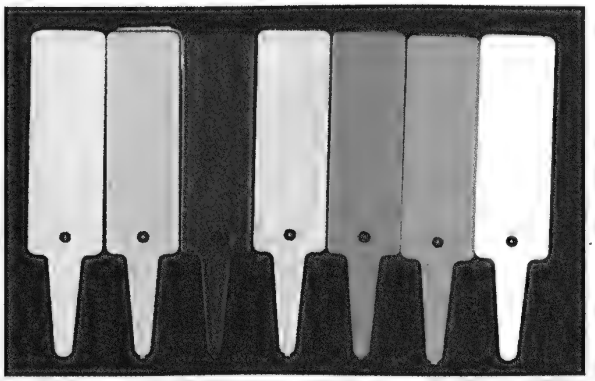


Fits almost any pot. Black 570mm drop

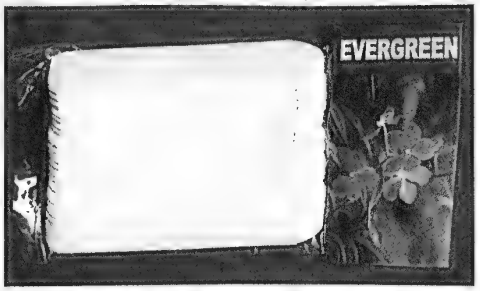
EASY BENCHING 640mm x 365mm
HPBENCH $4.00 each or 50 for $150.00



Labels Australian manufactured
Colours available: White, red, pink, sage, dark green, yellow & light blue.
HPLAB100 100mm
8 cents each or 1000 for $46.50
HPLAB140 140mm
10 cents each or 1000 for $66.00

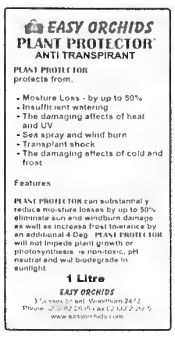


85mm Tie on label
HPLAB85 100 Pack $6.00 each



PLANT PROTECTOR
MPLAPRO 1 litre $25.00 each
MPLAPROP 20 litre $275.00

Australias best antitranspirant.
Use to protect plants from extremes of temperature, wind,etc.
The orchid growers best friend.

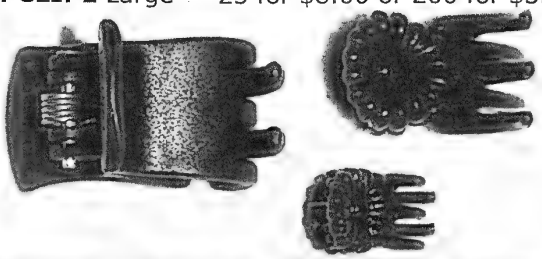

EASY ORCHIDS
PLANT PROTECTOR
ANTI TRANSPIRANT
PLANT PROTECTOR protects from.
- Moisture Loss - by up to 50%
- Insufficient watering
- The damaging affects of heat and UV
- Sea spray and wind burn
- Transplant shock
- The damaging affects of cold and frost

Features
PLANT PROTECTOR can substantially reduce moisture losses by up to 50% eliminate sun and windburn damage as well as increase frost tolerance by an additional 4 Deg PLANT PROTECTOR will not impede plant growth or photosynthesis is non-toxic, pH neutral and will biodegrade in sunlight.
1 Litre
EASY ORCHIDS

EasyKlips

Buy direct from the importer & save.
Tried & proven over many years.

Three sizes available
HPCLIPS Small 50 for $8.00 or 500 for $45.00
HPCLIPM Medium 33 for $8.00 or 500 for $80.00
HPCLIPL Large 25 for $8.00 or 200 for $55.00



PLASTIC FERTILISER BASKET
Make fertilising an easy task. Load with slow release fertiliser (see page 8) & each time watering occurs your plant is automatically fed. Time saver!!

HPBASFER
50 cents each
or 500 for $135.00

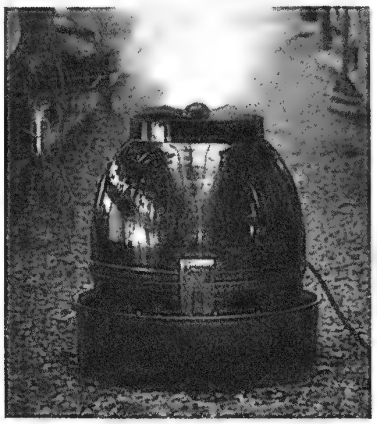


Proven under Aussie conditions
Exclusive to Easy Orchids

Portable 240V Fogger
Simple to operate. Great for reducing temperature and increasing humidity.

$449

The biggest help for orchid hobbyists



50mm Square squat tube
HPTUBS50
19 cents each or 1500 for $198.00



50MM BLACK TUBE
HPTUB50
15 cents each or 1000 for $108.95

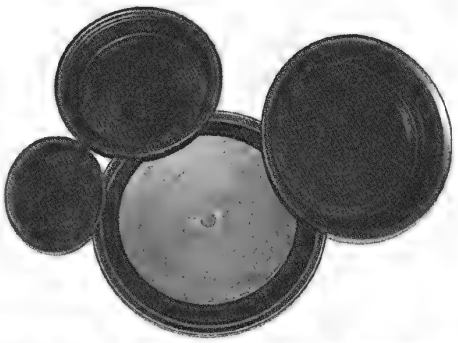
75mm TUBE
HPTUB75
25 cents each or 500 for $86.95



For all young plants both square & round
fit 30 hole trays perfectly

Saucers
How often do you find you need a saucer? Of course you can drill these & use them as pots very successfully also.

HPSAU150 150mm
75 cents each or 100 for $50.00
HPSAU200 200mm
$1.00 each or 50 for $35.00
HPSAU265 265mm
$1.40 each or 50 for $45.00
HPSAU300 300mm
$1.50 each or 50 for $55.00
HPSAU350 350mm
$4.00 each or 50 for $155.00

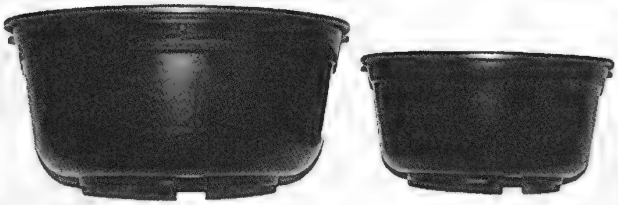


Squat pots
What a great pot for so many orchids. Classic shape, great drainage & legs for auto air pruning etc. Heavy construction. Pre drilled for wire hangers great for broms also.

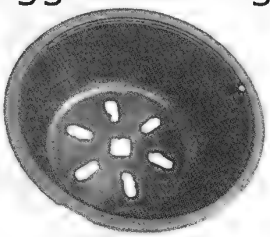
HPPOTSQ160 160mm Squat Heavy Pot
70 cents each or 50 for $27.50

HPPOTSQ190 187mm Extra squat pot.
75 cents each or 50 for $30.00

HPPOTSQ220 220mm Squat Heavy Pot
$1.40 each or 50 for $55.00



Our biggest selling pots

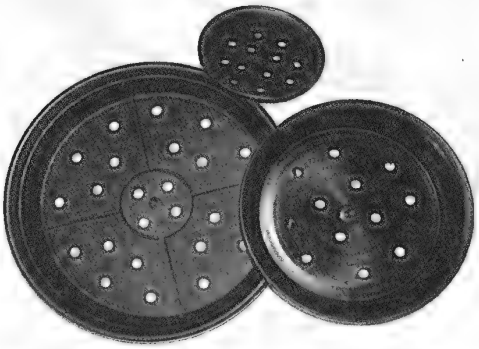


HPPOTSHA450 Squat pot 450mm.
Many uses including succulents, garden plants, speciosums, etc.
$7.00 each or 10 for $50.00



Shallow pots

HPPOTSHA150 150mm x 45mm
$1.20 each or 100 for $85.00
HPPOTSHA265 260mm wide x 50mm
$2.00 each or 50 for $80.00
HPPOTSHA350 350mm wide x 50mm
$4.50 each or 50 for $177.50



CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR FLASK IMPORTS AT WWW.EASYORCHIDS.COM

Pots



HPPOTSLI125
125mm Slimline black
39 cents each or 450 for $152.95



HPPOTSLI140
140mm Slimline black
43 cents each or 300 for $116.95

HPPOTSTD175
175mm Slimline black
83 cents each or 50 for $36.50

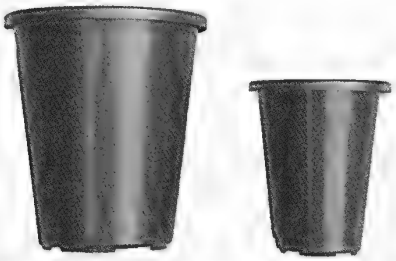


HPPOTSTD250
250mm Standard pot
$1.10 each or 50 for $49.95

HPPOTSTD300
300mm Standard pot
$1.20 each or 25 for $25.00



Cymbidium pots
HPPOTCYMS Small 60 cents each or 50 for $25
HPPOTCYML Large $1.00 each or 50 for $49.50



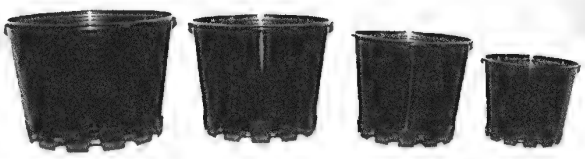
Dome squat pots Aussie made!

HPPOTDOME80 80mm
25 cents each or 500 for $98.00

HPPOTDOME100 100mm
28 cents each or 450 for $104.50

HPPOTDOME120 120mm
37 cents each or 450 for $126.60

HPPOTDOME140 140mm
49 cents each or 360 for $120.95



Clear orchid pot
Specially made for Phalaenopsis growers.

HPPOTCLE80 80mm dome
39 cents each or 500 for $110.00

HPPOTCLR90 90mm soft
25 cents each or 100 for $20.00

HPPOTCLR100 100mm dome
55 cents each or 450 for $222.75

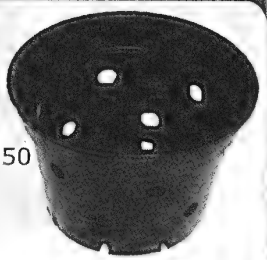
HPPOTCLR120 120mm dome
62 cents each or 450 for $198.00

HPPOTCLR140 140mm dome
72cents each or 360 for $198.00

250mm Squat Pot w/legs
So many uses for this beauty. Wide, low & with built in legs for air pruning etc. Specially good for speciosums, specimen plants and broms.
Extra heavy construction
HPPOTSQU250
$1.45 each or 25 for $30.00



EXTRA HEAVY DUTY POT
HPPOTHEA80 80mm
37 cents each or 250 for $71.50

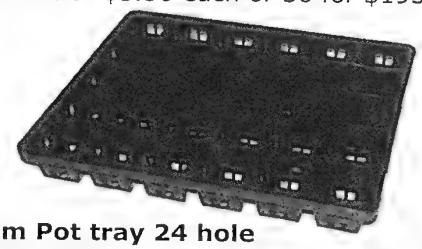


Budget squat pot
HPPOTSQ125 125mm
30 cents each or 50 for $13
HPPOTSQ150 150mm
40 cents each or 50 for $16

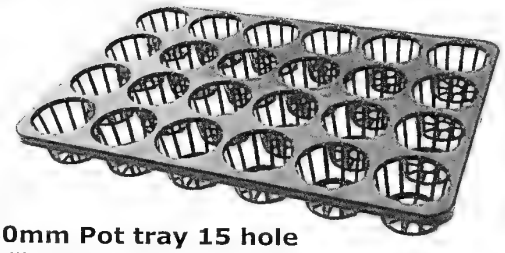


Best value pots in Australia

50mm Individual tube tray
30 hole each numbered
HPTRAY30 $5.50 each or 50 for $195.00



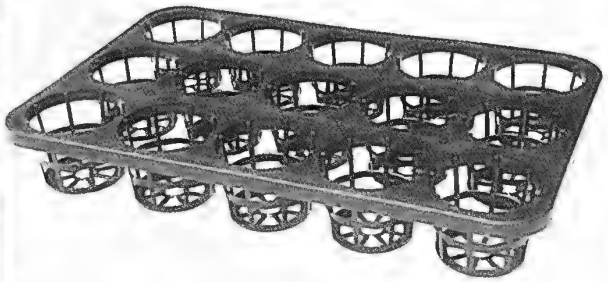
60mm Pot tray 24 hole
HPTRAY60 $4.00 each or 20 for $82.50



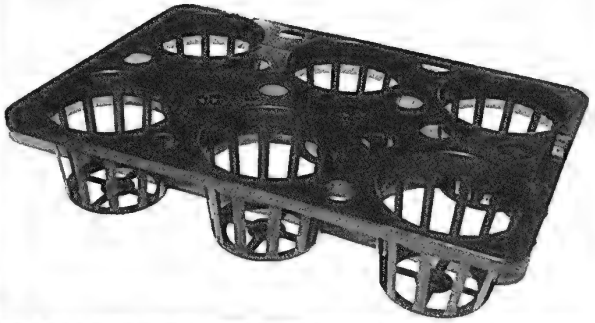
80mm Pot tray 15 hole
Will hold 70mm to 80mm pots.
HPTRAY15 $5.00 each or 50 for $165.00



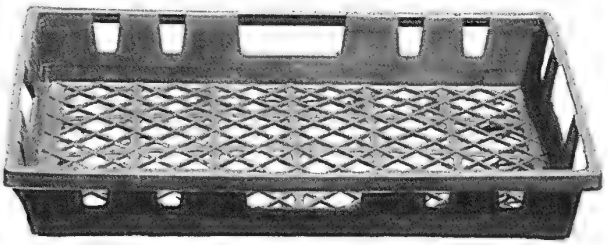
100mm Pot tray 15 hole
Will hold 90 to 110mm pots.
HPTRAY15B $5.00 each or 50 for $165.00



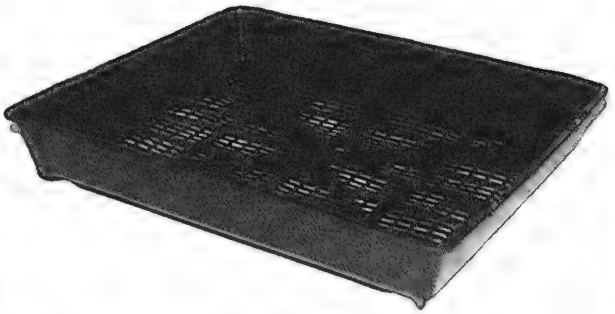
150mm Pot tray 6 hole
Will hold 120mm to 160mm pots
HPTRAY6 $5.50 each or 50 for $195.00



Large nursery tray
Just the thing for so many jobs around the nursery
HPTRAYUNI $5.90 each or 10 for $49.95



Seedling tray
HPTRAYSEED $2.00 each or 25 for $40.00



Terracotta
Terracotta has long been known as a great orchid growing medium.
Squat design for orchid growing.

HCPOTSML 40mm
40 cents each or 243 for $79.00

HCPOT75 75mm
80 cents each or 108 for $75.00

HCPOT100 100mm
$1.60 each or 22 for $25.00

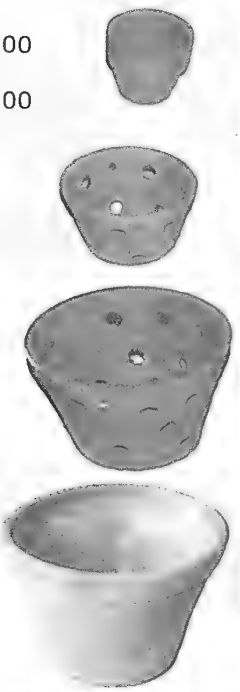
HCPOT125 125mm
$2.50 each or 10 for $20.00

HCPOT150 150mm
$2.95 each or 10 for $25.00

HCPOT200 200mm
$4.00 each or 8 for $25.00

HCPOT250 250mm
$5.00 each or 6 for $25.00

HCPOT300 300mm
$8.00 each or 4 for $25.00



Standard terracotta pots

HCPOTST300 300mm
$8.00 each

HCPOTST350 350mm
$10.00 each

HCPOTST400 400mm
$12.00 each

So popular & so versatile, these baskets pots have proven great sellers since introduction to Australia. Can be hung or benched

HPBASR87 87mm Round basket pot
37 cents each or 200 for $66.00

HPBASMUL100 100mm Round basket pot
60 cents each or 50 for $19.80

HPBASR150 150mm Round basket pot
$1.00 each or 70 for $56.00

HPBASR200 200mm Round basket pot
$1.20 cents each or 50 for $44.00

HPMESR250 250mm Mesh pot
$2.20 cents each or 50 for $45.00



Special purpose mesh pots at great prices.

HPMESR80 80mm x 65mm Mesh pot
22 cents each or 450 for $80.00

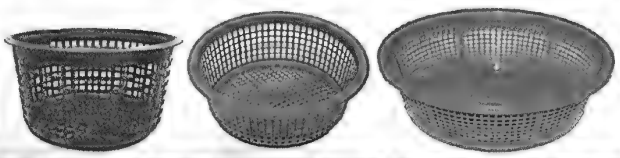
HPMESR100 100mm x 80mm Mesh pot
45 cents each or 200 for $60.00

HPMESR150 150mm x 130mm Mesh pot
$1.00 each or 50 for $39.00

HPMESR165 165mm x 100mm Mesh pot
$1.20 each or 24 for $22.00

HPMESR215 215mm x 70mm Squat Mesh pot
$1.20 each or 36 for $30.00

HPMESR300 300mm x 115mm Squat Mesh pot
$3.00 each or 12 for $30.00



The humungous monster pot! For the seriously big specimen plant. Any bigger your wife might pinch it for the washing basket. Mesh construction for great growth. Great for big speciosums, grammatophyllums,etc.

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450mm Mesh Pot
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70mm x 70mm x 45mm
22 cents each or 500 for $69.90

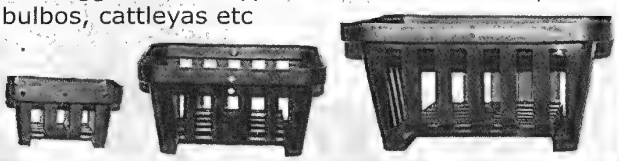
HPBASS100 100mm BASKET POT
100mm x 100mm x 55mm
39 cents each or 200 for $58.00

HPBASS125 125mm BASKET POT
125mm x 125mm x100mm
70 cents each or 150 for $88.00

HPBASS150 150mm BASKET POT
150mm x 150mm x 80mm
$1.20 each or 50 for $45.00

HPBASS200 200mm BASKET POT
200mm x 200mm x 90mm
$1.20 each or 50 for $39.50

HPBASS250 250mm BASKET POT
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$2.20 each or 50 for $75.00
The biggest of it's type. Suitable for vandas, bulbos, cattleyas etc

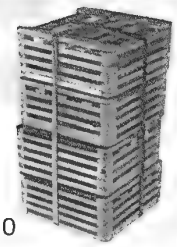


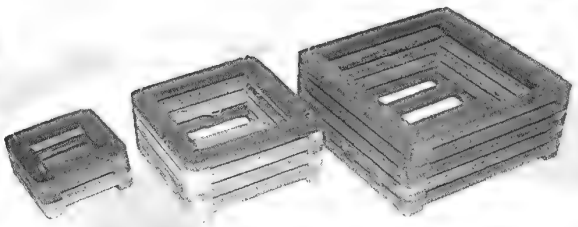
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HTBAS Set of 3 $13.00

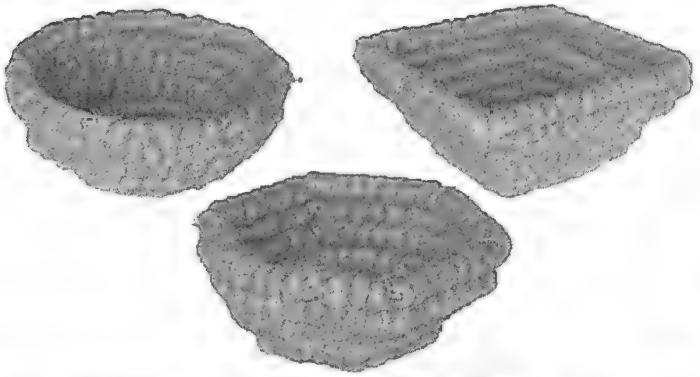
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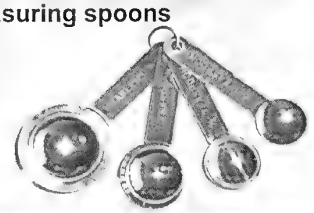
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10% Potassium
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0.2% Manganese
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2011 DIARY

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May 7-8.....Mothers Day Weekend Spectacular - Port Macquarie
May 20-22...Orchids Out West - Hawkesbury NSW
Jun 16-19....Parramatta & District Orchid Society Show - Winston Hills Mall
Jun 25-26....Mingara Orchid Fair
Jul 10.....TINONEE ORCHIDS OPEN DAY & SHOW
Jul 31 .....Hills District Orchids - Winter Open Day
Aug 12-14...National Orchid Extravaganza - Dural
Aug 19-21...St. Ives Orchid Fair
Aug 26-28...Melbourne Orchid Spectacular & Victorian International Orchid Fair Springers, Keysborough
Sep 3-4 .....Speciosum Spectacular - Kempsey
Sep 8-11 .....Australian Springtime Flora Festival - Mt Penang
Sep 17-18 ...Orchids in the Wetlands - Newcastle
Sep 25 .....Hills District Orchids - Spring Open Day
Oct 1-3 .....South & West Regional Show & Conference - Nowra
Oct 7-9 .....Southern Orchid Spectacular - Cronulla
Nov 5-6.....Gold Coast - Tweed Orchid Fair
Dec 4.....Hills District Orchids - Summer Open Day

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An *in vitro* look at *Paphiopedilum* Seed Development for Vigour and Selection

by Michael Dorris

Of four different *Paphiopedilum* crosses that germinated within three months, I found 6% of the protocorms were multiplying, 21% had two leaves, and 75% were leafless or just swollen protocorms. This sort pattern is common for seed because of natural diversity. Understanding this pattern is key in selection for *Paphiopedilum* breeding, vigour is paramount at this stage, flower selection comes later.

For a species to be successful it should not have all its seeds germinate at once and risk a bad season that kills all. This characteristic of unsynchronised germination can be overcome as it has in all domesticated crops by selection of the first germinating cohort (Briggs, F. Knowles, P. 1967).

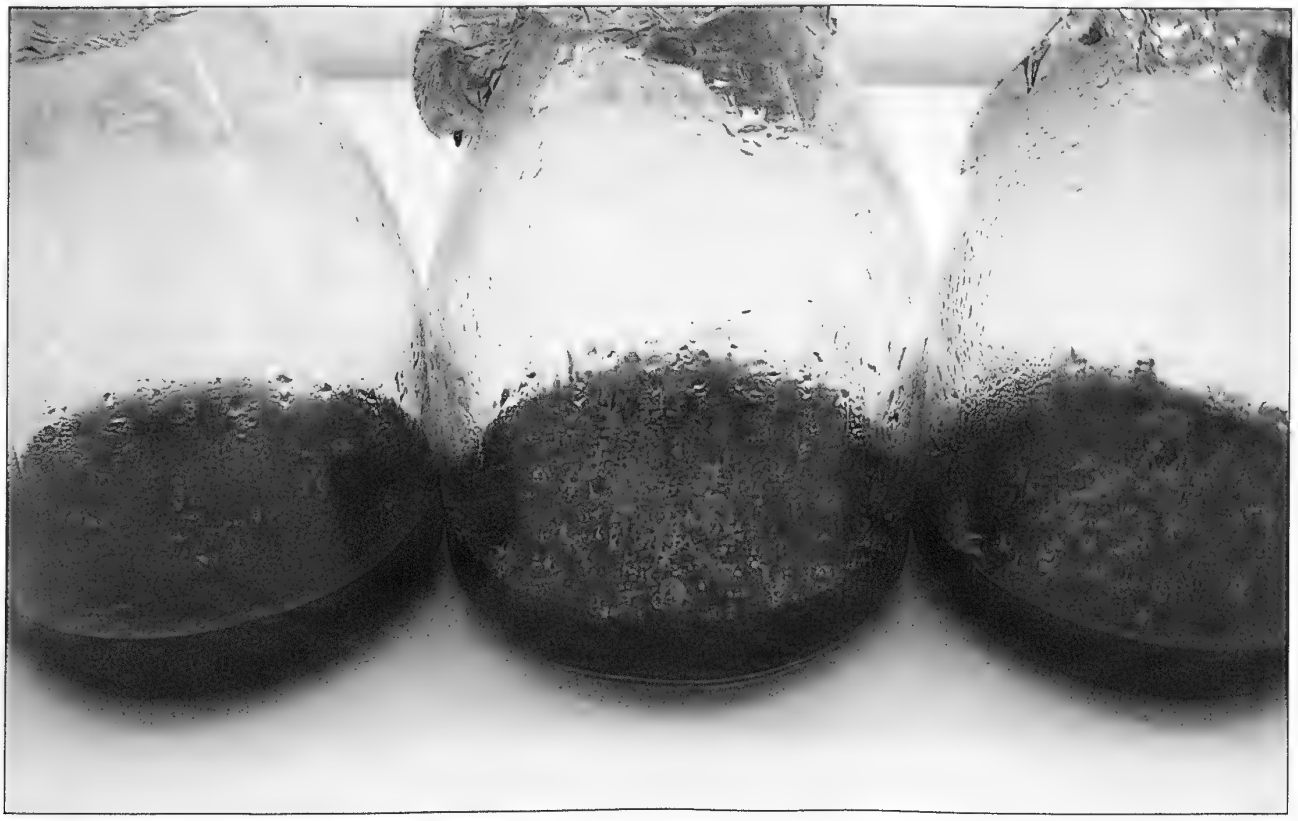
Examples of crosses that produced under 300 plants

Paphiopedilum Predatous x *P. conco-bellatulum* (#1806) resulted in 2% multiplying seeds, 81% protocorms, 12% plants with leaves, 4% plants with large leaves at five months. This is not a primary cross and shows some of the diversity of a heterozygotic cross, still there are 4% that should be good to label and bloom for breeding.

Paphiopedilum charlesworthii x *P.* (Ruby Peacock x Macabre) (#1847) resulted in 1% multiplying seeds, 37% protocorms, 42% plants with leaves, 2% plants with big leaves at four months.

Paphiopedilum primulinum x *P. bellatulum* (#1657) 20% smallest leaves, 75% middle sized leaves, 4% largest leaves, at three months. In this primary cross, somewhat homozygotic plants produce hybrid vigour in their heterozygotic offspring. There are no multiplying protocorms, no protocorms just plants with leaves. However there is still a very vigorous group that can be selected off the top. The lack of extremes is due to the genetic averaging; for example if one parent has a non functioning gene and the other has a functioning gene for that same trait (allele) the offspring shows the functioning trait. (Bromham, 2008).

(*Paphiopedilum* Dugueslin x *P.* Singing Minstrel) x [*P.* Hsinying Maru x (Ruby Mist x Macabre)] (#1889) a cross of heterozygotic plants: .02% multiplying seeds, 51% protocorms, 37% short roots, 10% long roots. This is a cross were the roots are out growing the leaves dramatically, not too unusual, they can be graded by using root size.



Above: The different *Paphiopedilum* hybrids after germination

Examples of crosses that produced over 1000 plants

Paphiopedilum philippinese x *P. lowii* (#3079). Pod made on May 19 2008, green pod harvested on November 15 2008 and planted (Thompson, P.A. 1974). Totals were made on April 29 2009. No multiplying seeds, 71% protocorms, 20% plants with 2 leaves, 9% plants with large leaves. 1005 plants were graded above. Count was made 5.5 months after planting which allowed the most vigorous to show themselves and note the lack of diversity in the primary cross.

Paphiopedilum Macabre Pie x (Dugueslin x Singing Minstrel) (#3099). Pod made on May 15 2008, green pod harvested on December 15 2008 and planted (Arditti, J. 1992, Thompson, P.A. 1974). Totals were made on April 28 2009. .7% multiplying protocorms, 66% protocorms, 13% plants with two leaves, 20% plants with large leaves and .2% plant with roots 1 cm long. 1073 plants were graded. This cross shows how the law of large numbers can produce unexpected results as in the plants with 1 cm long roots when about 95% + had no roots.

Other examples

It should be noted this pattern is not confined to *Paphiopedilum* as a *Cattleya* cross graded at the same time produced 45% protocorms, 31% pointed protocorms, 20% plants with a leaf and 3% plants with roots. 309 plants were graded.



Above: Sorting and grading by size the slipper orchid seedlings



Above: Deflasked seedlings, note range of sizes, note the very fine brown seed that didn't germinate



Left: View of *Paphiopedilum* seedlings before agar is washed off and plants potted up, note the hero seedling

In summary and conclusion

Selecting for vigour by picking the upper 2% to 20% of the faster plants, depending on the total number of plants in the cross, will advance an orchid breeding program. Later selection for disease resistance and flowers can be done. This selection can be done in the lab or in the greenhouse. The effect of selecting grows with each generation of plants by concentrating the desired genes (Briggs, F. Knowles, P. 1967). Plants selected for vigour will show it even when cloned or if used with unselected plants they will confer a measure of vigour.

The idea that the best flowers are from slow plants is unsupported after a century of plant breeding (Briggs, F. Knowles, P. 1967) and unsupported by the better orchid breeders.

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- Kamemoto, H. et all. 1999. *Breeding Dendrobium orchids in Hawaii*. University of Hawai'i press. Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.
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Michael Dorris
Florida, USA
Email: micdor@mindspring.com

International Speakers Day
at the OSCOV *Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 2010*

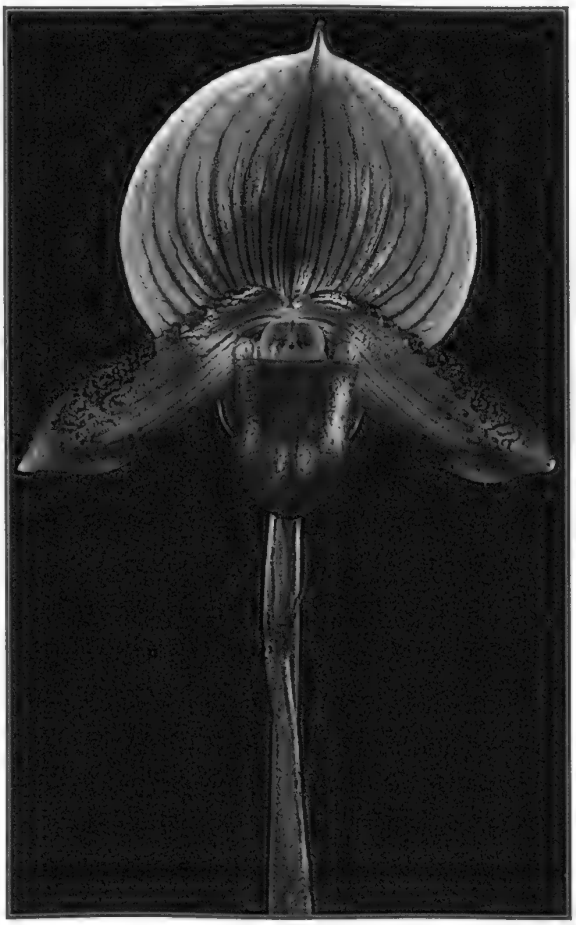
Text by Frankie Fraser, photos by Ian Maher

If you missed the International Speakers Day at the OSCOV *Melbourne Orchid Spectacular* in August 2010 you missed a great opportunity to see four first-class presentations. The speakers attracted visitors from almost all Australian states and from New Zealand. We were very fortunate to have presentations from Hendrik Vorster from South Africa, Pepe Portilla from Ecuador, Bill Thoms and Fred Clarke, both from the USA. The four presentations were of a high standard accompanied by awesome photography.

Hendrik Vorster, from HQ Orchids in South Africa, started the day with an interesting presentation featuring some of his favourite orchids from South Africa and Madagascar. He explained that the western side of Africa has a higher rainfall than the eastern side and this produces some beautiful epiphytes. Some orchids mentioned were familiar, like *Stenoglottis longifolia*, but others were not. We saw photographs of orchids such as *Eurychone rothschildiana*, *Eurychone galeandra*, *Mystacidium venosum* (flowers in winter), *Mystacidium capense* (flowers in summer) and various species of *Aerangis*, *Angraecum* and *Polystachya*.

Pepe Portilla from Ecuagenera Orchids in Ecuador spoke on *Cattleya* and *Phragmipedium* species found in Ecuador. Being a keen grower of *Cattleya* species I was enthralled by photographs of *Cattleya maxima* plants growing at the very tops of trees in glaring sun and quite strong wind, and in spite of these conditions were flowering profusely! Pepe showed photos several varieties of *Cattleya maxima*. *Cattleya iricolor* and *C. violacea* also occur in Ecuador. With winter rains rivers in Ecuador rise and cover much of the habitat of *C. violacea*. *Phragmipedium besseae* is also found in Ecuador growing on exposed surfaces which are constantly bathed with water – not rain but seepage from rocks and other exposed surfaces.

Bill Thoms gave us an amusing and informative talk on growing orchids in general and growing specimen plants in particular. Bill, from Hilltop House Orchids in Florida, is the author of *Bulbophyllums: The Incomplete Guide, From A – Why*, published in 2009. His hints on growing and grooming specimen plants were both practical and useful. There were also photos showing some of his incredible award-winning specimen plants. Can you imagine a *Phragmipedium* Schroderae with twenty flowers, or a *Masdevallia livingstoneana* with 52 flowers or a *Bulbophyllum* Doris Dukes with approximately 130 flowers? Quite staggering! One of Bill's practical hints was not to leave the grooming of plants until the last minute, but do it over a number of days. Something that Bill stressed was that you should always, *always*, take your own photographs!



Above: Grand Champion Orchid of the Show: *Paphiopedilum* Black Spider '#1' – Castle Creek Orchids

Fred Clarke's presentation was spectacular. Catasetums and *Cycnoches* are not orchids that I grow, but Fred's photographs were awe-inspiring! I will always remember his flowering plant of *Cycnoches cooperi* with two inflorescences of thirty-five flowers on each. Magnificent! Equally magnificent were photos of *Catasetum* species such as *C. pileatum*, *C. saccatum* and *C. tenebrosum* (very dark brown, with a contrasting light lip). Fred also spoke about *Mormodes* species. He then introduced us to some of his intergeneric gems including *Fredclarkeara* After Dark 'Black Diamond', a hybrid with amazing colour. Fred is from Sun Valley Orchids in California. Fred showcased many of his hybrids and the species in their backgrounds in his excellent article in the August-September 2010 issue of the *Australian Orchid Review*.

On behalf of OSCOV (www.oscov.asn.au) I would like to thank our international speakers for their time and knowledge. I would also like to acknowledge the great assistance of Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids for his vision and assistance in organising this International Speakers Day and the support of David Banks (*AOR*) in publicising and publishing articles on this event (from most of the speakers), and for providing copies of this magazine to all registrants on the day.

OSCOV Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 2010

The OSCOV *Melbourne Orchid Spectacular* held at Springers Leisure Centre in Keysborough last August was, literally, spectacular! There were twenty-three display stands of orchids, both hybrids and species, which appealed to the members of the public and the photography enthusiasts.

For the second year the orchid show was held in conjunction with the *Victorian International Orchid Fair* (www.orchidfair.com.au) and more than twenty-five vendors certainly attracted the buyers. This was a great opportunity for the orchid growers of Victoria to add to their collections. A highlight was the inaugural International Speakers Day with outstanding presentations from Hendrik Vorster, Pepe Portilla, Bill Thomas and Fred Clarke. There was something for everyone and the superb photographs were awesome.



Champion Species:
Lycaste fimbriata
– Dieter Weise

CHAMPION ORCHIDS:

Grand Champion Orchid of the Show:
Paphiopedilum Black Spider '#1' – Castle Creek Orchids

Reserve Champion:
Phalaenopsis Taisuco '#2" – Castle Creek Orchids

Champion Orchid by a Non-Commercial Grower:
Cymbidium Kirby Leash 'Pink Ice' – C & K Gillespie

Gerald McCraith Memorial Champion Species:
Lycaste fimbriata – D Weise

Champion Cymbidium - Large Flower, Hybrid:
Cymbidium Kirby Leash 'Pink Ice' – C & K Gillespie

Champion Cymbidium – Medium Flower, Hybrid:
Cymbidium Droiun Masterpiece 'Renae' – D Wain

Champion Cymbidium – Miniature Flower, Hybrid:
Cymbidium My Sweet 'Amy' – P Latino

Champion Large Cattleya Hybrid:
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Dal's Dream 'Lucky' – Castle Creek Orchids

Champion Medium Cattleya Hybrid:
Cattleya Dal's Choice 'Castle Creek' – Castle Creek Orchids

Champion Small Cattleya Hybrid:
Cattleya Orpetti 'Laina' – V & A Helbig

Champion Oncidium Alliance:
Odontioda Mem. June Appleby 'Beenak' – C & A Halls

Champion Paphiopedilum Species:
Paphiopedilum delenatii – Castle Creek Orchids

Champion Paphiopedilum Hybrid:
Paphiopedilum Black Spider '#1' – Castle Creek Orchids



Champion Hybrid
Cymbidium – Medium Flower:
***Cymbidium* Droiun Masterpiece**
'Renae' – David Wain

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Above: Champion Species Orchid (not otherwise listed):
Maxillaria ecuadorense – Bill & Jan Miles



Right: Reserve Champion:
***Phalaenopsis* Taisuco '#2'**
– Castle Creek Orchids

Champion Australian Native Orchid Species:
Dendrobium tetragonum 'Red Eye' – L Perryman

Champion Australian Native Orchid Hybrid:
Dendrobium (Anne's Rainbow Surprise x Hilda Poxon) – L Perryman

Champion Australia Native Orchid Specimen:
Dendrobium speciosum subsp. *curvicaule* – R McInnes

Champion Masdevallia Hybrid:
Masdevallia Midas Touch 'Crown Vista' – M Anderson & C Waterman

Champion Species Orchid (not otherwise listed):
Maxillaria ecuadorense – W & J Miles

Champion Specimen Orchid:
Lycaste fimbriata – D Weise

Champion Miniature Growing & Flowering Species:
Aerangis hyaloides – W & J Miles

Champion Hybrid Orchid (not otherwise listed):
Phalaenopsis Taisuco '#2' – Castle Creek Orchids

Champion Seedling Shown for the First Time:
Paphiopedilum Black Spider '#1' – Castle Creek Orchids

Champion Orchid by a Junior Grower:
Phalaenopsis (Zuma x Camreal) – D Matthews

CHAMPION DISPLAYS:

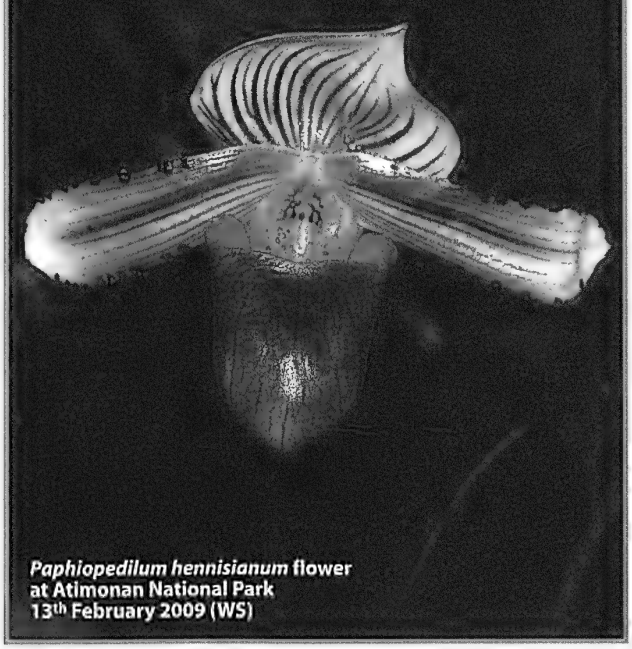
Champion Large Theme Display:
Gippsland Orchid Society

Champion Medium Theme Display:
Orchid Species Plus

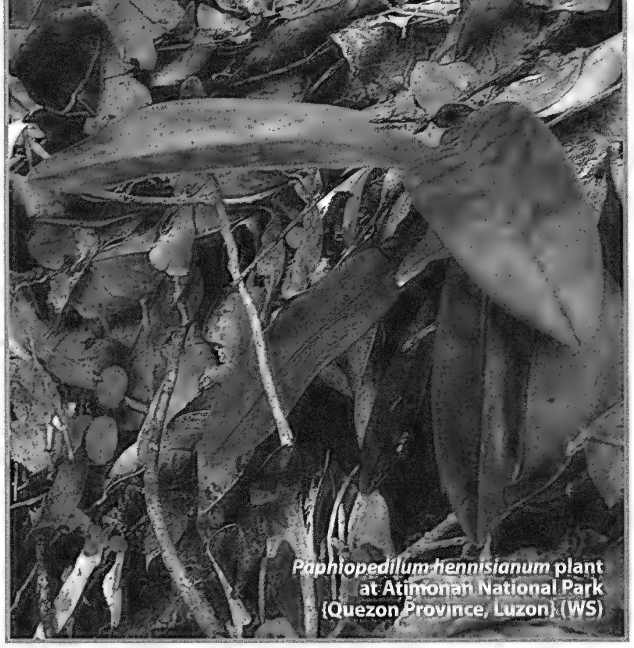
Champion Small Theme Display:
Stawell Orchid Society

Champion Display by a Specialist Society:
Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria

Frankie Fraser
Secretary:
OSCOV Show Committee
44 Grantley Drive,
Glen Waverley 3150
Email: frankie_fraser@bigpond.com



Paphiopedilum hennisianum flower at Atimonan National Park 13th February 2009 (WS)



Paphiopedilum hennisianum plant at Atimonan National Park (Quezon Province, Luzon) (WS)

Paphiopedilum hennisianum

Two New Locality Records for this Slipper Orchid Species from the Philippines

by Jim Cootes

When *Paphiopedilum hennisianum* was first described in 1977, it was thought to have come from the northern Mindanao province of Bukidnon, in the southern Philippines. This information has since proven to be incorrect or deliberately misleading.

It has been confirmed, that the plants in cultivation of this species, came from the islands of Negros, Panay, northern Cebu, Samar and Leyte in the Visayan Sea in the central Philippine archipelago.

In February 2009, whilst I was in the Philippines, a group of nature lovers went to the Atimonan National Park in Quezon province on the east coast of the island of Luzon. The beauty of this park is that there is a concrete path, for much of the way, through the forest, and the walking is very easy. Sadly for us, on the day we were there, it was raining, quite heavily, so it was not as pleasant as it could have been.

In July 2009, we returned to the same park, in good weather, and we were able to spend about 6 hours walking around studying the many orchid species, and other interesting plants, which grew there. Much of this park is on limestone, which is often a good habitat for *Paphiopedilum* species.

The path ends at the foot of some rather large mounds of limestone, which for me appeared to be too slippery to climb over. Two of the guys climbed around these mounds and went exploring further. Later upon their return they were showing us pictures of the plants they had seen. Imagine my surprise when some of the images were of *Paphiopedilum hennisianum*!

The only species of *Paphiopedilum* previously recorded from Quezon province was *Paphiopedilum argus*.

Early in 2010 I was sent a number of pictures, taken by Mr. Ravan Schneider, from the northern part of the island of Mindoro, of a *Paphiopedilum* plant in bud, which he had photographed during one of his frequent treks into the mountains behind his home.

The only species of *Paphiopedilum* previously recorded from the island of Mindoro was the closely related *Paphiopedilum urbanianum*.

Several weeks later Ravan returned to where he had seen the plants in bud, and he was able to get some excellent pictures of *Paphiopedilum hennisianum* in full bloom.

The plants are usually growing on slopes, amongst leaf litter, at elevations between 500 and 1050 metres elevation, in light shade.

Acknowledgements:

My sincere thanks to Wally Suarez and Ravan Schneider for the use of their photographic images that accompany this article.

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Paphiopedilum hennisianum an outstanding example of this slipper orchid *in situ* from northern Mindoro (photo: Ravan Schneider)



Borneo Orchid Society of Sabah Show 2010

Text and photos by Jean Shergold



Grammatophyllum speciosum

In October 2010 I was privileged to be invited with Gary Yong Gee, Roger Sawkins and Les Vickers by the Sabah Tourist Board to attend the Borneo Orchid Society of Sabah (BOSS) Show, Presentation Dinner and Conference. This gave me the opportunity to check out each leg of the tour Easy Orchids will sell as a post World Orchid Conference tour following this year's WOC in Singapore that starts 10th November 2011.

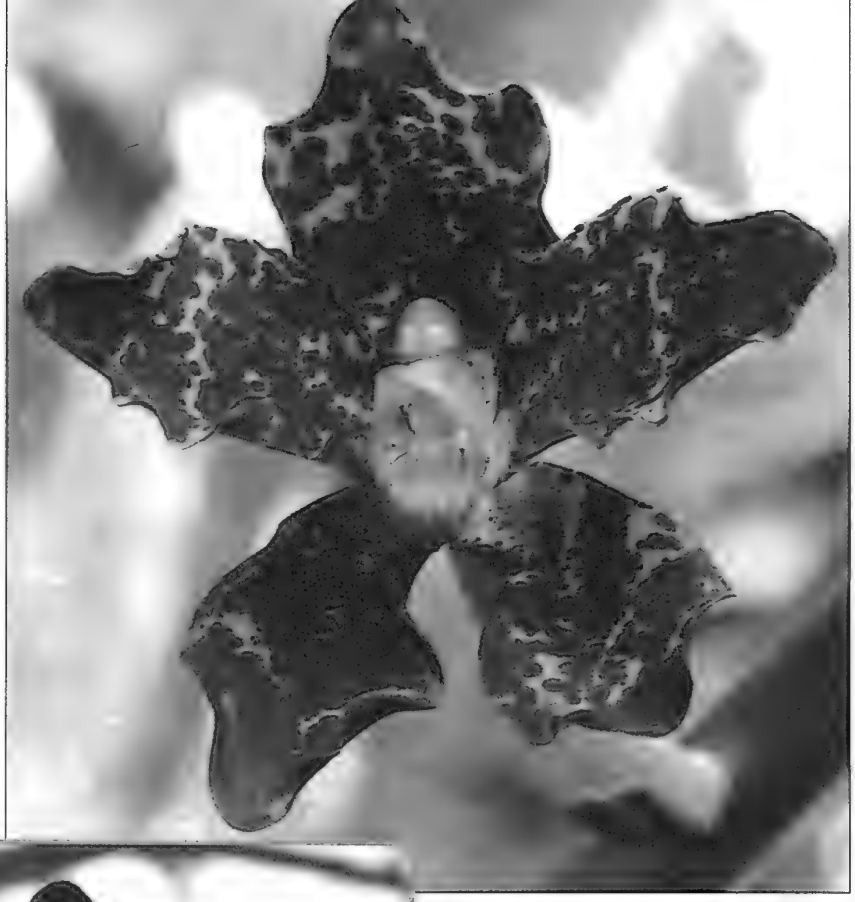
This Conference in Kota Kinabulu was a highlight with guest speakers such as Dr. Tony Lamb, who spoke about Orchid Discovery Tours in Sabah, Jaap Vermuelen - whose topic was on Remarkable *Bulbophyllum* Orchids of Borneo, Peter O'Byrne delivered The Discovery of Exciting New Species in the Asian Region, Dr. Alexander Kocyan spoke about The current status of the Revised Classification of the Orchid Family, Mr. Henry Lo told us about Growing Orchids

in Kota Kinabalu, and finally Dr. Stephen Gale whose topic was Conservation of Hong Kong's Wild Orchids. We all came away feeling much richer after listening to these learned gentlemen.

The show had some very interesting plants such as *Grammatophyllum kinabaluense*, a very dark and smaller growing form than the famous species *Grammatophyllum speciosum* that was also on display.

Being in Borneo it was not surprising that there also were *Dimorphorkis lowii*, many Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilums just to mention a few. The Best in Show was a huge and stunning plant of *Grammatophyllum speciosum*.

The Presentation dinner was a gastronomic delight with eight courses of delicious food. Following the dinner the successful exhibitors were presented with their awards.



Right: *Grammatophyllum kinabaluense*
(photo: Gary Yong Gee)

Below: *Grammatophyllum kinabaluense*
(photo: Gary Yong Gee)



On the Saturday following breakfast we set off for Kipandi Butterfly Farm to see the very extensive display of both live and specimen butterflies and many other odd interesting insect specimens. The abundance of orchids in flower was mind blowing. But when you throw in hoyas and *Nepenthes* pitcher plants this park had so much for all plant lovers to admire and photograph. Some of the orchids were newly discovered and thus undescribed.

In the evening we visited the Mari Mari Cultural Village to understand the cultural diversity of Borneo's ethnic groups, their housing, cooking methods plus their energetic dancing and music.

On Saturday we drove up the Crocker Range in the opposite direction from Kipandi and headed to Mount Kinabalu National Park where we wandered among trees and a great range of plants including orchids, medinilla,, hoyas, pitcher plants and much much more. In the park there are countless endemic plants that grow in this niche environment where the minimum temperature is 18°C with the maximum only 22°C. Only a four degree differential! The day length hardly varies because it is so close to the equator.



Above: ***Bulbophyllum ornithorynchum***

Next stop was Kundasang War Memorial to commemorate the brave Australian and British Prisoners of War who died on the Sandakan Death March. It also remembers the People of North Borneo who risked their lives to help these prisoners. There were three lovely but very different gardens, one Australian, one which was English and a third to commemorate the People of Borneo who helped the soldiers putting themselves at risk. An area with a lovely pool displayed a list of all those who perished during the march.

Following a typical lunch of the region we visited Poring Springs to take in more beautiful orchids of Borneo. While in the park we enjoyed watching Jacki the Orangutan have her fruit lunch in the sunshine. She is free to wander the park but is locked up at night for her own protection. A highlight was seeing *Rafflesia keithii* only a few metres off the road. The *Rafflesia* is a parasite living on the *Tetrastigma* vine. It has developed to only have a flower no leaves, roots or stems. We were very lucky to see this flower as they take nine months to develop and last only seven days. It is one of the largest flowers in the world.

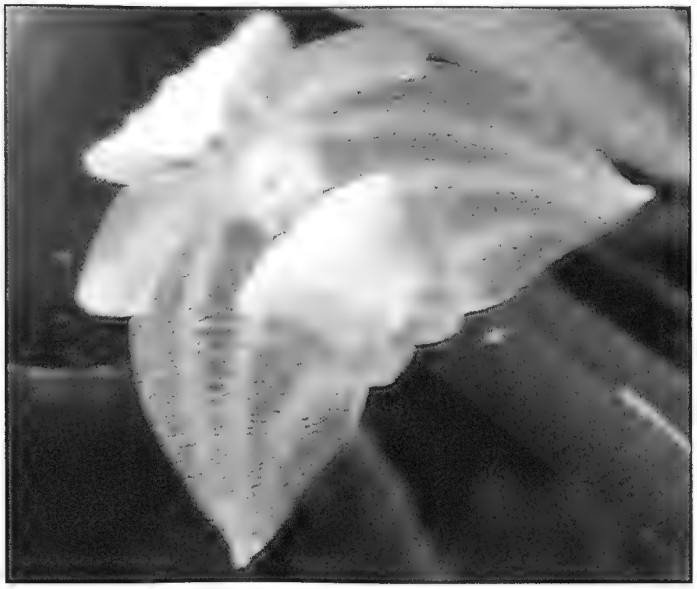
After early breakfast we hit the trail for Tenom Agricultural Park about four hours drive from Kota Konabalu. This park is on 200 hectares with gardens to interest most gardeners eg; orchids both native species and hybrid, a garden to show the evolution of plants, a tropical flowering garden including hibiscus, pitcher plant house, ginger garden & tropical fruit orchards.

We overnighted at Kenigau, on return to Kota Kinabalu we visited the Rafflesia Centre to learn more about *Rafflesia*. At Kota Kinabalu we spent the afternoon relaxing at the luxurious Shangri-La's Tanjung Resort before our overnight flight home via Royal Brunei airlines.

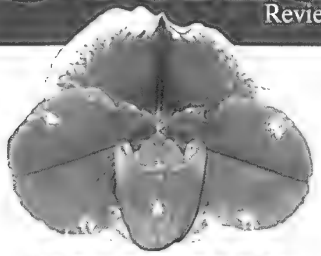
I wish to thank, Gwenda Zappala, Sabah Tourism, and Martin Shim of Exotic Borneo for making this trip possible and so enjoyable. Martin's knowledge of all plants of Borneo certainly made our trip more enjoyable. Having completed this tour we at Easy Orchids are confident that we can offer a post Singapore WOC Tour into Malaysia that is full of interest for orchid, exotic plant and animal lovers. It is amazing how things keep changing. Hearty thanks to Gary Yong Gee who helped me identify many of the orchids we photographed, and for the use of his images of *Grammatophyllum kinabaluense*.

Jean Shergold
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Right: ***Bulbophyllum pocillum***



Australian Orchid Review



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AOR 065



Above: ***Bulbophyllum vinaceum***

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Above: *Coelogyne odoardi*

Right:
Coelogyne verrucosum



Above: *Dendrobium jiewhoei*



Right:
Dendrobium maraipense

Below: *Pteroceras cladostachyum*







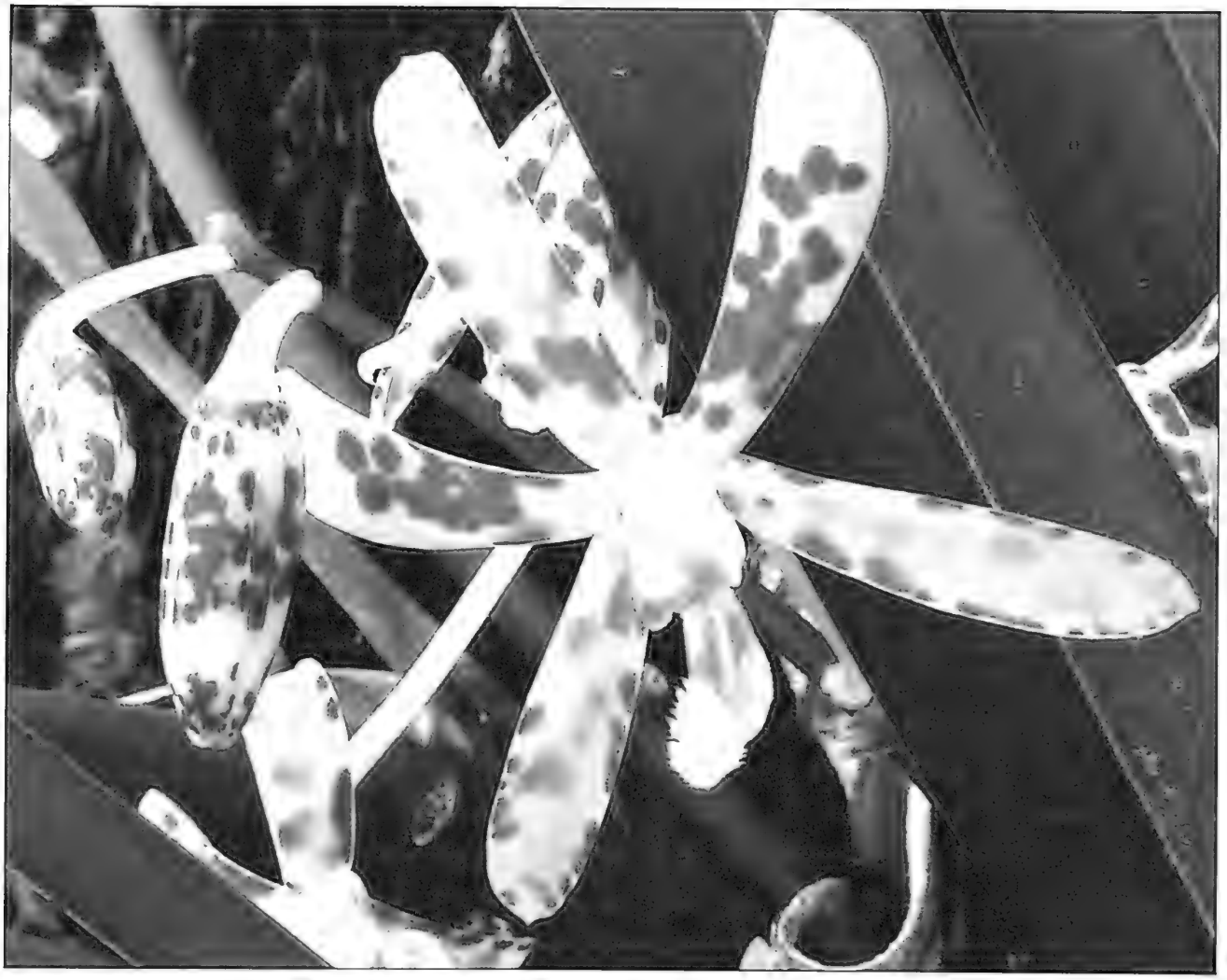
Above: ***Calanthe pulchra***



Above: ***Claderia viridifolia***

Below: ***Hoya waymaniae*** (a delightful non-orchid)





Above: ***Dipodium pictum***



Right: ***Rafflesia keithii***
(one of the largest flowers
in the world)



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Pinalia philippinensis - An *Eria* by Another Name

by Jim Cootes

The importation of orchid species is always a chancy business. One buys their plants in good faith that they are named correctly, but this is not always the case. I am certain any serious species grower can vouch for this, when their new acquisitions flower for the first time. Sadly a lot of orchids also perish during the quarantine procedures, mostly due to the gassing of the plants – which invariably adds to the ultimate cost of such specimens that survive.

Over the years I have imported many orchid species, mainly from the Philippines, and when these plants have flowered there have often been some surprises. One of these surprises is the plant chosen for this article, as my plants still have not flowered, but a plant given to David Banks recently did. The plants were imported as *Eria philippinensis* and I was extremely happy when we actually got what I had paid for!

The change of generic epithet from *Eria* to *Pinalia* is because of the work being done with DNA sequencing within the genus. *Pinalia* is a genus that was created in 1825 by Buchanan-Hamilton. Originally *Pinalia* was not generally accepted as a genus, but because of the break-up of *Eria* this is the name that is now being recommended.

Pinalia philippinensis is member of the section *Polyura*, which seems to have its centre of distribution in the Philippines. This section can be recognised by the interesting growth habit, where each new growth, is produced from mid-way along the previous year's pseudobulb. Plants from this section are usually pendulous growers, and they can attain considerable length and become somewhat untidy.

Well grown plants can produce several inflorescences from each new growth, bearing about ten blooms that last for about a week. The flowers are about 20mm in diameter and there is a persistent bright green bract behind the flower stem.

Pinalia philippinensis is an uncommon species in Australian collections and efforts should be made to get this delightful species into flask.



CULTIVATION

Plants can be successfully grown in pots, in a mix of medium-sized bark and pebbles. David's plant is growing well in a blend of 70% small grade treated pine bark, 20% 12mm OrchidMate™ coconut chips and about 10% perlite. I also have a plant growing on a slab of cork-bark with sphagnum moss over the roots so that the plant does not dry out too quickly, but perhaps a treefern mount may prove more successful. The plants are kept in a glass house at a Winter minimum temperature of 10°Celsius. There is a fan running continually, to keep the air moving around; humidity is kept at about 70%; and the shade is at 80%. Regularly watering plus mild applications of both organic and inorganic fertiliser keep these plants in excellent health.

Thank you to David Banks for the use of his photos of the plant he recently bloomed. ■

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Culture Corner

Do you have an old orchid under a gum tree?

by Wayne Turville

Do you have an old orchid under a gum tree? If you have, then chances are you will have more success and satisfaction than some of the finest orchid growers in Australia.

The reason for this is that the old fashioned "granny orchids" of yesteryear are far more prolific and vigorous than most of today's modern orchid hybrids.

Those spider and snail infested cymbids that probably one in three households in the southern states have tucked down behind the garage or under a convenient shrub are actually, when grown correctly, extremely rewarding and quite valuable pot plants that bloom year after year. But yours never flowers, I hear you say? It just sits there year after year looking drab and leafy?

The following are typical remarks I hear "I have thirty of the rotten things and this year, not one spike" My mother left them to me and I don't know what to do with them". "I was given it as a present and I'm going to kill it".

Well, it's time either to read on and seriously attempt to get those orchids back into health or load up the family trailer and take them to the tip.

Orchids require the same things as all living creatures - light, fresh air, water and a little food. It's the combination of these things in the right proportions that gives success.

People with green thumbs are usually graced with a large dose of common sense, and when this is applied to growing *Cymbidium* orchids, good results always follow.

First, let's look at the most important factor. Under your conditions, can you actually grow the orchid you have? It's no good attempting to grow a tropical exotic orchid in Melbourne or Hobart or a cool-growing *Cymbidium* if you live in Townsville or Darwin. If it was a misguided gift, return it to the supplier if you can and exchange it for something that suits your area. Don't be tempted to buy the most expensive and colourful orchid you can afford. Cut your teeth on something common and perhaps more hardy. The larger, showier orchids are usually bred for competition standards and shows and tend to be sensitive.

Sydney, Adelaide, Perth and particularly Brisbane have superb orchid growing climates. The selection is greatly expanded as you move north. We seem to want to grow what we can't, so don't be caught out.

Unless you have a heated or controlled climate growing area, don't be too adventurous with your purchases in southern Australia.

If you're living in the warmer areas of Australia, remember most orchids in nature live in the mountains where it's far cooler than you imagine - even so called tropical orchids may require a cold snap to initiate flowers.

Let's look at the next most common reason for poor growth and flowering. Light and temperatures are critical to nearly all living creatures. If it's too dark or too bright for an animal, the animal simply moves. Unfortunately for plants such as orchids, they are stuck where you place them.

Melbourne for instance has extremes in temperature from -2°C to up to 42°C. Just placing your orchid under the eaves of the house can reduce these extremes by 10°C. Almost no orchid can tolerate frost or scalding summer sun. Those large black scald marks that appear on foliage are usually caused by one or the other. Cymbidiums enjoy full sun in winter but where a frost cannot reach them, dappled light shade in spring and autumn and full shade in summer. The foliage should not be bleached yellow from too much light or be deep green from too much shade; either will reduce your crop of flowers. In a home garden, you literally must move your orchid.

Don't be over concerned about feeding. Home gardeners who go out of their way to fertilise their orchids occasionally do more harm than good, due to the fact that orchids require minimal fertiliser. A quarter to half normal strength dose fortnightly during the warmer months can do wonders for a tired orchid. But please remember the eternal rule: never fertilise a dry plant. Always water it the day before; otherwise it's like giving a thirsty person a glass of salty water.

What about watering you ask? Well that varies, depending on the daily temperature, size and type of pot the orchid is in, the potting mix and the size of the plant.

Clay pots dry faster, but if you are a compulsive waterer, they might suit you best. Plastic pots on the other hand vary enormously. Watch the drainage holes, as orchids require excellent drainage and quite often in the manufacturing process, these holes are not properly formed and are covered by a thin film of plastic. The result is a drowned orchid. Another way to drown an orchid is to allow winter rains constantly to water your plant day after day, causing the mix to become sour and cold.

Use the eaves or veranda of your house as a simple shelter. If your winter rain comes from a particular direction, put your plants under the eaves on the opposite side of the house, but, of course, don't forget to hand water. A rough guide is once a day in summer and once a week in winter and somewhere in between for autumn and spring.

Remember, you must plant cymbidium orchids only in orchid mix. It is a special blend of coarse materials designed to drain quickly and be open and airy. In comparison, it is far coarser than any other plant potting mix, so please don't use ordinary mix or garden soil. You will only suffocate your orchid's roots.

Look for shrivelled and dry "bulbs" on your orchids; it's usually a sign of incorrect watering. Either too much or too little. An orchid with drowned dead roots behaves the same as an orchid that hasn't been watered in weeks, so don't be fooled into giving it more water.

You say you've done all these things and still don't get any blooms. Maybe you had blooms but the beasties enjoyed them before you could. One rat or field mouse, maybe a ringtail possum or just an army of slugs and snails, can steal your long waited precious flowers before you ever know you have any. *Cymbidium* inflorescences (flower spikes) appear from March through to August so learn what not look for and take the appropriate precautions against pests.

Slugs and snails prefer orchid buds to almost anything else, apart from lettuce seedlings. Sometimes even baits will not tempt them. A simple yet effective and environmentally safe way to beat them is to tie a wad of cottonwool around the raceme with some cotton or fishing reel. For some reason, these mollusc pests don't seem to want to cross this simple barrier.

Later, we will discuss repotting, controlling pests, propagating and housing.

Good growing!!!

Wayne Turville
Australian Orchid Nursery
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Above: Semi-terete vandas growing and flowering in a tropical garden

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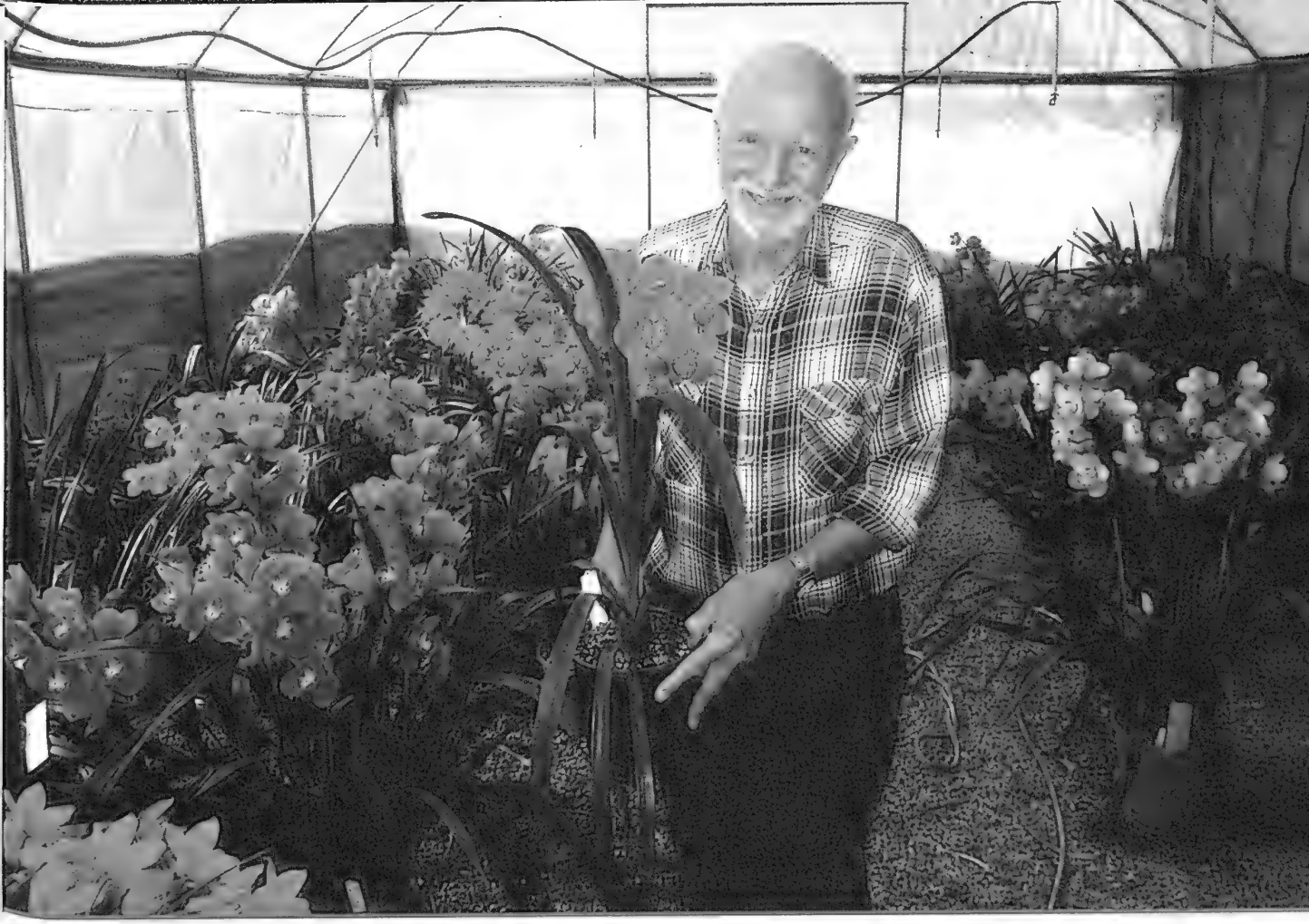
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Gordon Giles with a flowering single-growth mericlone (***Cymbidium* Foxfire Amber 'Dural'**) flowering just over 18 months from flask (DPB)

Cymbidiums – *My Early Growing Years*

by Gordon Giles

When the Editor asked me to write an article on orchid hybridising, my first thought was while I had dabbled with various genera, it was really only cymbidiums that I had had a lot of experience with. To make my approach to this understandable, I thought I would have to tell you the history involved.

Now as many people know if you want to make a small fortune out of growing orchids you should start with a large one. I unfortunately did not start with any fortune at all, thus nearly all of my involvement with orchid hybridising has been in areas where there is a profit to be made. I am a nurseryman and have been one all my working life, so no profit = no dinner.

My involvement with orchids as part of my earning a living has varied from 100% to as little as about 15%, presently being 30% to 40% of my income.

When my late father, Leo Giles and I started Wondabah Orchids at Carlingford NSW, he had the land and business acumen, and I was the nurseryman. During the boom years when *Cymbidium* plants changed hands for very large sums of money, prices of up to £1000 were paid for a single plant. While it is difficult to compare prices, it would have equalled approximately $50,000.00 (fifty thousand dollars) or more in today's value. For example at that time I purchased a bit over 3 acres (approx. 1 ¾ hectares) of land on the main road at North Rocks at a price of £1200.00, I thought I would never pay it off. We realised that this was a bubble and would ultimately burst. We had been bringing in a small number of seedlings from England, they were difficult to obtain – such was the demand. We decided that to survive in the future we would have to breed and raise them ourselves.

Now raising orchid seedlings at that time was a completely different procedure to modern day practice. There were a few hobbyists who were doing it for themselves, and they were kind enough to teach me their methods.

There were no 'clean-air' cabinets, thus no green-pod culture, and very fundamental growing formulae. The seed pod was allowed to ripen; the seed was then extracted and dried. It was refrigerated till sowing time. This was done as soon as possible; however, the seed would remain viable for a considerable time, and was often posted to other parties. The growing media was the basic Knudsens C formula. The seed was sterilised in a solution of calcium hypochloride, and then, usually in a bathroom that had just been filled with steam using the hot shower, set in erhlenmeyer flasks. There was no replating (as no clean-air cabinets) so the correct amount of seed had to be placed in the flask using a platinum loop set in a glass rod. The loop was sterilised using some form of flame, in our case a methylated spirit lamp, as we had no city gas, and there was no LPG at the time. If everything went well, there was usually not a lot of infection. The plants took quite a long time to grow and were usually fairly small when taken from the flask. The upside was there was a ready market for seedlings when they were big enough to sell. This usually took about 18 months or more from deflasking, compared with 12 months today for a far larger plant.

Now at this time our primary interest was brightly coloured *Cymbidium* flowers. One of our more successful crosses was Sensation, which is Spartan Queen x Fascination. The first came from McBeans, the second from Armstrong and Brown, both English nurseries. This was an interesting cross and taught me quite a lot about hybridising. The flower spike of the Spartan Queen came out parallel to the ground, so if the plant was a little below the top of the pot, the spike would not make it. The spike on the Fascination came out at about 45° to the plant, and a percentage of the progeny produced spikes at 45°. I realised to counter a fault in one parent it was necessary to over compensate with the other parent. We still do this today.

Around this time the export market for *Cymbidium* flowers was starting to grow quite quickly. Most were going to the USA where the demand was for white and pastel colours. This put a damper on our colour breeding. We started to use the clone Balkis 'Luath' as a parent. This was an off-white flower which when combined with colours toned them down to the required pastel colour. It produced free-flowering plants with a spike habit that suited the floral trade. It was at this time I learnt another lesson. There was a pretty pink called Madder Rose. Now it had a fault, the labellum was badly pinched. I had been pre-warned this fault would carry through to the progeny. An older more experienced person, whom I knew, had had the very same experience. However I was still at the age where I knew everything, and was sure the quality of the other parent would overcome this fault. WRONG.

Below: A selection of high quality flowering stud plants at Keith Wallace Pty Ltd (DPB)





Above: Another view of *Cymbidium* breeding stock at Keith Wallace Pty Ltd (DPB)

The practice of mericloning had arrived and the scene changed again – radically this time. High prices became a thing of the past, and the export boom was gradually coming to an end. It was at this time I decided to make, what I think today is called a lifestyle change. I decided to go wholesale and started the nursery where I am today, plus a second in the next street. The lifestyle thing was to work only 4 days a week. I decided that I worked to live, not live to work. At this time my involvement with orchids was at its lowest.

We started to concentrate on Indoor foliage plants and Ferns, which were entering a boom time. As with all booms it also ended in time, but fortunately there is presently still a good market – albeit a lot smaller. Having got back into orchids we have worked ourselves into a good position.

In 1995 I sold the second nursery and started to concentrate more on cymbidiums.

With mericloning came the ability to change diploids (2n) to tetraploids (4n) with the use of colchicine. This opened the way to modern cymbidium hybridising. It should be explained that till this time you had diploids which carried colour well and a limited number of tetraploids which were mostly pale colours. When mated the results were triploids (3n), which do not breed, so were the end of the line. I sent a number of the better coloured clones to the South Australian laboratory that was doing the conversions, and the results, when they flowered, were nearly all tetraploids, and I was able to move on again to breed high coloured quality clones. As I had backed away from growing for the export trade I found there was a ready market at the retail nurseries for *Cymbidium* plants in flower. The market was for good colours on good looking plants, as they were being used for indoor decoration. When we took up breeding in a bigger way again, this was the market we aimed for. During this time I did some breeding with *varicosum*-type oncidiums. We had good success and bred some really nice oncids. Unfortunately the demand was very limited. They were all yellow and all flowered at about the same time. I decided to leave that field alone.

As the demand for flowering cymbidiums increased, so did the retailers requirements. Colour, floriferousness and spike habit had to be considered. Spike habit was important, and had to be fairly upright so they could be transported and handled easily. Shape had its place too, even the person buying for floral decoration could tell good from inferior quality. A good number of crosses were now being made due to the advent of laboratories set up to raise orchid seeds. This opened the door to everyone. I have always been very selective and confined my efforts to a limited number of crosses that I feel really have potential.

There are just a few clones that come along that move the standard to new heights. One of these was originally a diploid – Lunagrad 'Elanora'. This was converted to a tetraploid. It is green, but amazingly is behind some of the finest reds and yellows. The yellow side started when Lunagrad was crossed with Wallara 'Gold Nugget', which was a fluke tetraploid cross. One of the progeny Lunara 'Gold Star' has been the basis of many fine yellow crosses. We have had good success with this line.

The red side started when Lunagrad was crossed with Alvin Bryant to make Cronulla. The clone 'The Khan' was outstanding. It was crossed with Yowie Flame to make Khan Flame. This crossing is in the background of many, if not, most of the quality red and brown crosses.

The red/pink section of standard cymbidiums is fast approaching their zenith. There is little room for improvement shapewise. In the future clarity of colour, spike habit, especially the placement of flowers on the raceme, and freedom of flowering is where any improvements will be made.

Yellows are quickly improving. Pure colour whites, presently the most requested colour by the retail nurseries, are getting there slowly. The colour that is also in demand is green with red labellums. This is a colour combination that is always popular but seems to be rarely available to the trade. There are many nice intermediate clones available. I believe the way forward is to improve the standard parent then go back to the known miniature parents. Crossing intermediate to intermediate seems to increase the plant size of the progeny. This is not what it is all about.

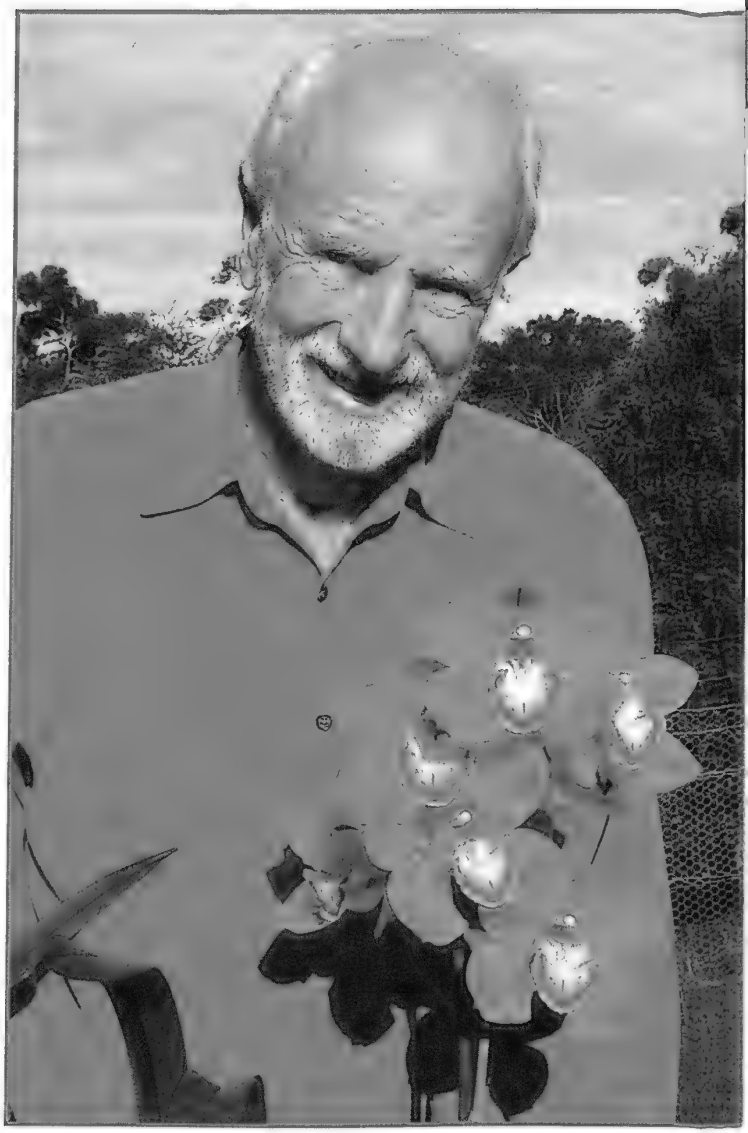
Now there are many fields of *Cymbidium* breeding that we have not touched. Many are interesting but do not fit in with a commercial operation. The progeny of *devonianum* are just marvellous. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' has apparently sold more plants than any other single clone, as it should, as it is a very rewarding plant.

Now I should add at this point that there is a lot of luck in orchid hybridising. Even when all the characteristics of the flower and the plant are deemed worthwhile, there is still the reality that by making only 250 plants from a seed pod containing 250,000 seeds, the chances of flowering a champion are quite remote, and infact the odds are one in a thousand. However it is really good fun, and the interesting part of the year in the autumn is watching the new plants coming into flower for the first time.

With the absence of a retail orchid nursery in the greater Sydney basin, and with many inquiries as to where to purchase orchid seedlings, we have decided to supply the retail market with plants. This is our 5th year in operation, and we have put out a catalogue each year listing our new *Cymbidium* seedlings and mericlones. Our nursery, trading as Keith Wallace Pty. Ltd. is at 23 Vineys Lane Dural, in the north-west of Sydney, and we will be open for sales from May 2011. Visit our website: www.keithwallace.com.au

(Photos by David Banks and Wayne Turville)

Gordon Giles
Dural, NSW
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Above: Gordon Giles admiring a first flowering seedling of ***Cym.*** **(Trinity Rah x Amber Sands)** (WT)

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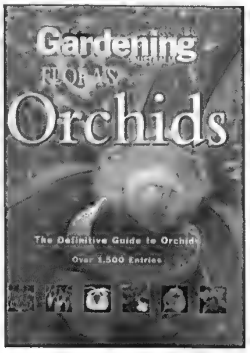
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FLORA'S ORCHIDS

Senior Consultant David P. Banks

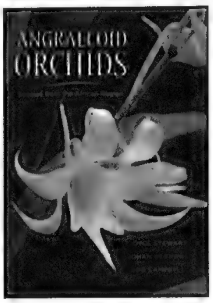


Part of the best-selling *Flora* range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and, where appropriate, the translated common name. Plant spread and height are listed, followed by symbols indicating plant type, natural growing locations, growing conditions, frost tolerance, preferred temperatures, type of flower, and preference for pot or mount cultivation. The brief descriptions explain the type of genus, geographic area, and flowering and dormancy seasons. There is a wealth of sound cultural and propagation advice.

AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridisation, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

368 pages, colour.
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ANGRAECOID ORCHIDS: Species from the African Region

by Joyce Stewart, Johan Hermans, and Bob Campbell

These so-called 'Jewels of Africa' with their sparkling flowers, distinctive growth habit and floriferous nature are much prized and this account, the first to include the angraecoid orchids of both Africa and Madagascar, is long awaited. It brings together, in a single volume, descriptions of all 690 species in this intriguing group of orchids and will be the essential reference for all angraecoid orchid enthusiasts for years to come. Stewart, Herman and Campbell have all spent time in various parts of eastern and southern Africa and precise ecological information relating to habitat, altitude preferences and flowering season of individual plants will be particularly helpful to growers. The diagnostic features of each genus are illustrated and over half the species are accompanied by exquisite photographs taken in both wild habitats and in cultivation. The authors know the angraecoid orchids well, both in cultivation and the wild, and this knowledge has led to an authoritative account of these interesting plants.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

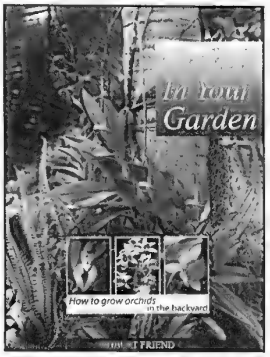


This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and st… the previous book, but also includes some… would require artificial heating in… volume covers a further 314… with 344 colour plat… commend to all orchid fa… comers who wish to see an a… ful flowers that they could grow.

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ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

How to grow orchids in the backyard

by Robert Friend

It sounds too good to be true, but orchids are as easy to grow in the backyard as a lawn or a bed of roses. Despite their exotic reputation, the everyday gardener can grow orchids without special pots or greenhouses.

The book shows you haw to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000 species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are plants suitable for every garden.

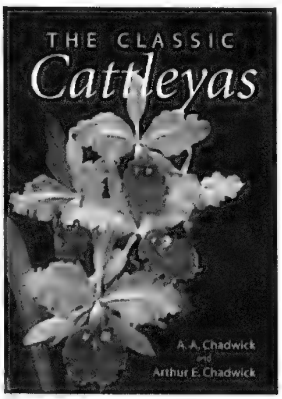
Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

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THE CLASSIC CATTLEYAS

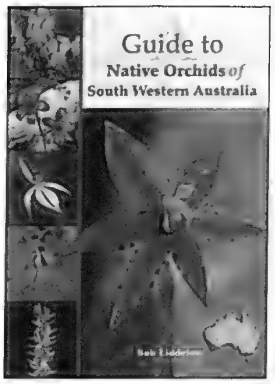
by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick



In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.

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A GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by Bob Liddelow

This book beautifully illustrates the orchids of this part of Australia. Bob Liddelow has spent a considerable amount of time in the field, each season, seeking out many different orchids.

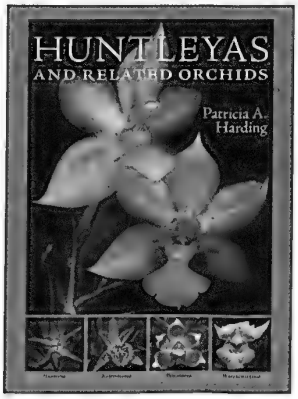
This is an Orchid Guide with a difference. Instead of covering all species with total distribution areas, this book treats a very representative collection of orchids in great detail. The specific sites for each orchid are illustrated with 'mud maps'.

The book also cross-references some 142 orchids with about 100 sites in the greater south-west of Western Australia. Every orchid is illustrated in full colour.

There is also comprehensive indexes, a glossary, author's notes and more.

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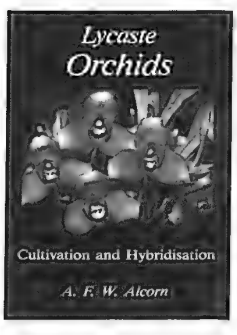
HUNTLEYAS AND RELATED ORCHIDS

by Patricia A. Harding

Revered by avid orchid collectors for its delightful, star-shaped flowers, *Huntleya* is a small group of orchids found low in the forest. *Huntleya* is a small orchid genus that includes fourteen species. They occur in wet cloud forests at medium altitudes of Guatemala, Costa Rica, South America down to Bolivia. The type species *Huntleya meleagris* also occurs in Trinidad. Besides their striking colours — from deep blue to waxy red, royal purple to almost black — flowers of this group are known for their distinctive shapes, patterns, and textures. As appealing as these lovely tropical orchids are, their identification has been confused since the first species was described in the mid-1800s. Recent DNA studies have led to a clearer understanding of relationships and, as a result of this clarity, it is now possible to sort out the taxonomic problems and identify the characteristics that set species apart. In this first book devoted to the *Huntleya* alliance, author Patricia Harding presents evidence from the scientific literature, other growers, and her own experience that will enable orchid enthusiasts everywhere to identify their plants and grow them successfully. Patricia A. Harding is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades.

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LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation

by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages. Colour and B&W.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

by James Neal



This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

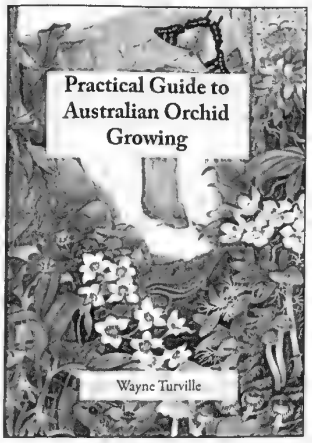
Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

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PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING

by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia – specialising in Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. This book was written for everybody from the absolute amateur through to the hardened "orchid nut". However, due to its low cost and practical nature, this book fills a huge void in orchid literature. Simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of the some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, Cymbidiums and *Sarcochilus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

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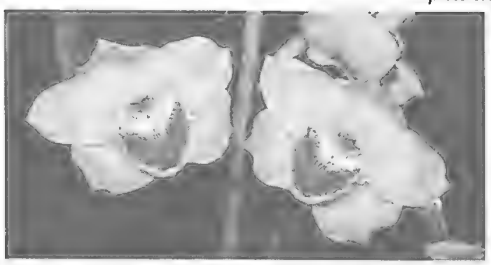
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***Dockrillia wassellii* 'Merrellen' (syn. *Dendrobium wassellii*)** is one of the finest examples of this uncommon native pencil orchid from the McIlwraith Range in North Queensland, growing at about 300m. This species has a wide temperature tolerance, growing well from the tropics down to Southern Australia (if kept dry during winter). This cultivar was originally from the elite native collection of Ted & Barbara Gregory and is now grown by Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchid Nursery, NSW. Photo: David Banks.

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2011 ORCHID EVENTS – *What's on!*

February 27 Hills District Orchids Autumn Open Day (www.hillsdistrictorchids.com) – Northmead NSW
March 4-6 Queensland International Orchid Fair (www.orchidfair.com.au) – Bray Park, Qld
April 8-10 Sydney International Orchid Fair (www.orchidfair.com.au) – Castle Hill Showground, NSW
April 16-17 Collector's Plant Fair (www.collectorsplantfair.com) – Bilpin NSW
May 19-22 Orchids Out West – Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon NSW
May 21-22 6th Orchid and Garden Oasis Expo – Southport Qld
June 10-12 TQOC Conference and Show – Bowen Qld
June 16-19 Parramatta & District Orchid Society Show – Winston Hills Mall NSW
June 26-27 Mingara Orchid Fair – NSW
July 10 Tinonee Orchids Open Day & Show – Tinonee NSW
July 31 Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day (feat. Easy Orchids) – Northmead NSW
August 12-14 National Orchid Extravaganza – Dural NSW
August 19-21 St Ives Orchid Fair – NSW
August 26-28 Melbourne Orchid Spectacular & Victorian International Orchid Fair – Keysborough Vic
October 1-2 South & West Regional Conference & Show – Nowra NSW
October 7-9 Southern Orchid Spectacular – Sharkies, Woolooware NSW



Queensland International Orchid Fair

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th March, 2011

Free Entry & Parking

From 8am each day

Venue: Pine Rivers PCYC - Baker Street, Bray Park

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Barry Kable: 0414 725 294 • Murray Shergold: (02) 6682 2635 • Ray Clement: (02) 6553 1012



SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FAIR

Fri 8th, Sat 9th & Sun 10th April, 2011

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Harvey Lowe Pavilion Castle Hill Showground

Cnr. Showground & Carrington Roads

Free Entry & Parking

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Ausplants Nursery
Brighton Orchids
Burbank Orchids
Candybell Begonias
Dark Star Orchids
David Keanelly Orchids
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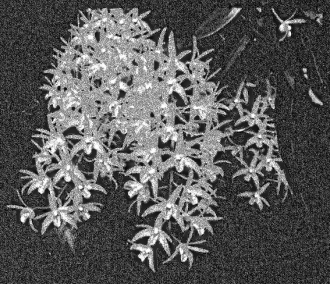
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"Great Dividing Range II" by Helene Wild